Hafa Adai!

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House lawmakers present Arrington with resolution. PAGE 2

Manglona to Torres: Make PUA a great priority. PAGE 5

75¢

Guam governor tests positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Leon Guerrero

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has tested positive for COVID-19, soon after coming in close contact with an immediate family member who had also tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios immediately issued a statement

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 11, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	418	16	434
Recovered	325	0	325
Active	88	16	104
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	24,501		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	49	0	49
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	12,301**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Jury selection starts in Atalig trial

» 8 Guam-based witnesses OK'd to testify by video

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense in the case against Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, agreed yesterday that eight witnesses who are residing in Guam may testify via video-teleconference from the federal courthouse in Guam because of the COVID-19 situation.

This developed as U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

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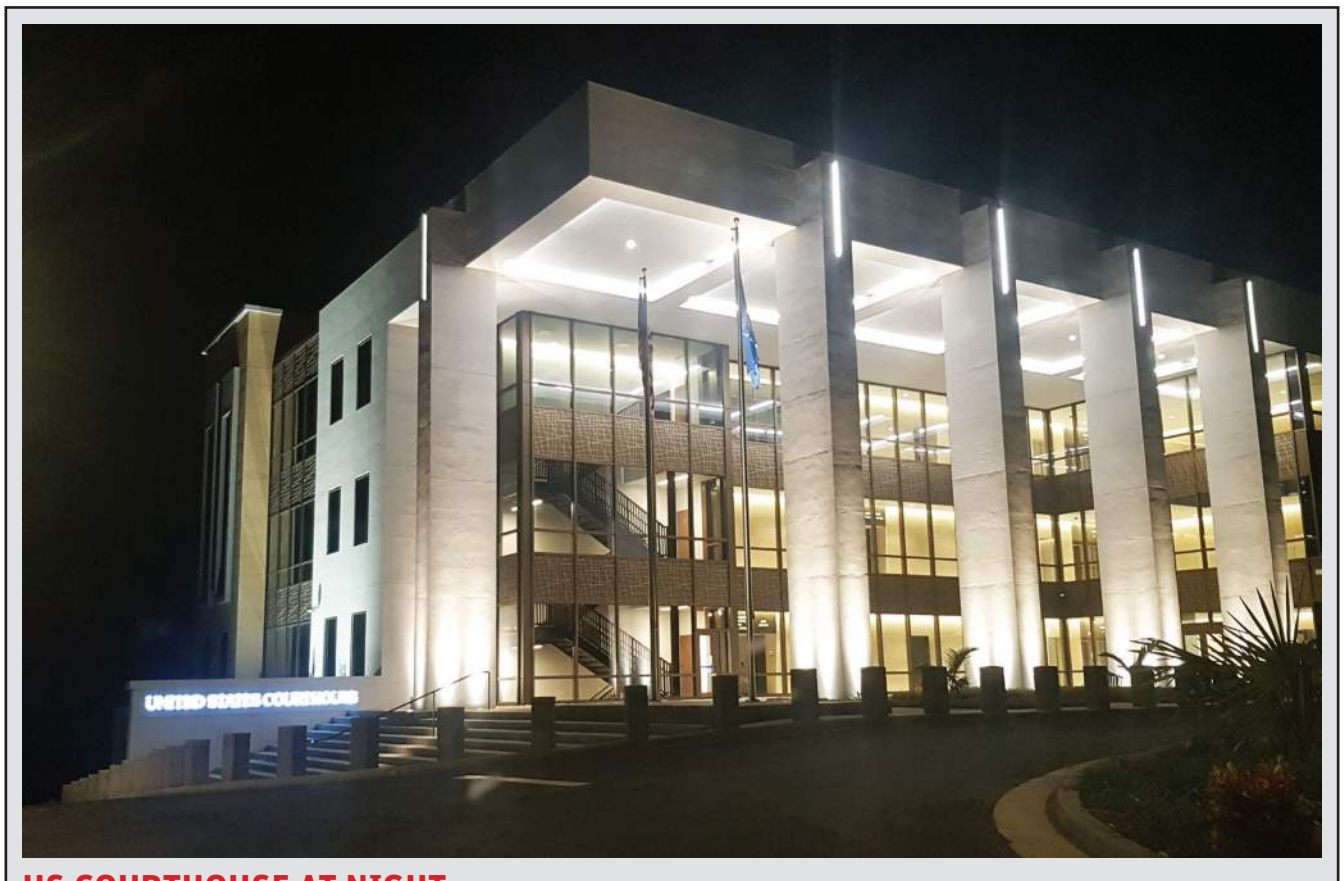
Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, exit the main entrance of the U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai during a lunch break yesterday. The jury selection in the trial of the Ataligs started yesterday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE



US COURTHOUSE AT NIGHT
The U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai is all lit up at night, providing a warm and welcoming sight in the area.
BEA CABRERA

No local funds for CWs

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI has no local funds available to help CW-1 workers, who were recently deemed ineligible to receive the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemploy-

See CWS on Page 4

OAG to look at PSS' handling of sex abuse

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA and IVA MAURIN
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REPORTERS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be asking the Office of the Attorney General to look into the Public School System's handling and management of allegations of sex

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Start your evening with Pacific Island Club Saipan's Seaside Grill Sunset, which reopens tomorrow.

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NATION
A storm packing 100 mph winds and with power similar to a hurricane sweeps across the Midwest.

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WORLD
Lebanon's prime minister steps down in the wake of the catastrophic explosion in Beirut.

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Local

House lawmakers present Arrington with resolution

Deer Meat for Dinner influencer Robert Arrington, with his family and team, receives a resolution plaque and the CNMI official seal yesterday, after being honored by the House of Representatives through House Resolution 21-31, in appreciation of his effort in promoting the CNMI as a destination for ecotourism.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Lawmakers in the CNMI House of Representatives honored *Deer Meat for Dinner* influencer Robert Arrington yesterday with a House resolution that thanks him for his effort to promote the CNMI as a destination for ecotourism.

In accepting the plaque for H.R. 21-31, Arrington talked about how his first trip to the islands in 2018 introduced him to a "beautiful place" and its "wonderful people," compelling him to return, this time with his family.

"The beauty of the CNMI is untold, and I take it as a personal responsibility to tell the entire world, not only how beautiful it is, but how accessible it is, and how ready it is for their arrival," he said. "It doesn't matter if we have just five people come here from the [U.S.] mainland. Those five will become seeds that [will] tell all the people in their group how amazing it is, and those five will send more and more people here.

"Even if it's just one person coming, when they go home, I guarantee you they will have a wonderful story to tell," he added.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), who introduced the resolution, wished for Arrington's return to the CNMI. They are set to leave the CNMI on Aug. 20, Thursday.

"You've done tremendously to promote the CNMI. …I hope that in the near future, you return back here and continue assisting us in promoting the CNMI," said Guerrero. "…As they say, we have a culture…to embrace our visitors. You are our visitors, our CNMI family."

Guerrero and other House lawmakers also gave Arrington the CNMI's official seal, saying "I hope that... [when] you think about and reminisce about the CNMI, you see our faces in this seal."

House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) also thanked Arrington and his team for promoting the CNMI, adding that it is "an opportunity to promote our home and who we are as a people."

For his part, Arrington expressed appreciation and gratitude in return. "The CNMI is my second home. I love each and every one of you. I thank you all so very much from the bottom of my heart, for your friendship and your encouragement and your support. This is not the last time I'll be here," Arrington said.

Time for a
Staycation
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LOCAL Weekend Staycation SPECIAL
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KICK YOUR FEET UP IN OUR
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1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
*Free Upgrade to our Oceanview or Oceanfront Room
(Upon Availability)
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
10% Off Dinner at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa
Family & Diving Pools
Special Rate! $140 Per Night +15% Tax
MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL, BOOK OUR
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
20% Off Dinner at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood
10% Off all ARC Café Items
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa
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Special Rate! $250 Per Night +15% Tax
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ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
*Special Rate valid for stay duration within July 24, 2020 - August 31, 2020
*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

CEC to buy 6 tabulating machines

The Commonwealth Election Commission is buying two large tabulating machines and four small ones—all worth $170,000—for the Nov. 3 general elections, according to CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez yesterday.

Villagomez said they need to replace the five machines because they are now slow and obsolete.

CEC just sent early this month the contract for the six machines to the Nebraska-based Election Systems and Software. She said the machines are expected to arrive on Saipan in the latter part of September or early October.

Villagomez said the two new big machines will be used on Saipan, while two new small machines will be used each on Tinian and Rota.

SSS will be sending a technician to the CNMI to service the newly purchased machines.

CEC bought five machines from the same company in 2003.

Villagomez said there was a delay in the tabulation of ballots in the last election as there was a problem with compatibility issue in the old machines.

In past elections, the CEC has been using three machines for Saipan and one machine each for Tinian and Rota.

Villagomez urged people to register to vote as the deadline is Sept. 4.

She also asked those who need to update their records to come in now.

The request for absentee ballots will commence on Aug. 20.

Sixty-six persons have filed their candidacies, while two judges and a justice will also be on the ballot for retention on the bench.

The CEC board has yet to certify their candidacies.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is running unopposed for his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The position for the U.S. delegate and 37 other government positions, including three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs in the coming Nov. 3 general elections, which used to be called mid-term election. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'PSS is not after the money of Settlement Fund'

The Public School System wants to stress that it does not want the NMI Settlement Fund's literal money and its use of the word "unconstitutional" in its lawsuit against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig only means PSS believes that the calculation of its constitutional share in the government's annual budget was in error.

PSS, through counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu, pointed out that the Settlement Fund itself has stated that it has no position on whether the "funds appropriated to it can or should be included in calculating PSS' 25% share pursuant to Article XV, Section 1(e) of the CNMI Constitution."

Mocanu made the arguments in PSS' reply to the NMI Settlement Fund's opposition to PSS' motion for summary judgment.

He said the Settlement Fund characterizes the "concessions" it made with the Fund as a change in PSS' position but, in reality, they are simply "changes in syntax made necessary by the Settlement Fund's dogmatic misunderstanding of this case."

The lawyer noted that PSS' draft first amended complaint was presented to the Settlement Fund, which was given full right to edit it as it saw fit. Mocanu said that PSS adopted all of the edits and comments made by the Settlement Fund because PSS believed that if the complaint was edited to the Settlement Fund's satisfaction, it would no longer have an interest in this case and would withdraw. Mocanu said PSS had no interest in amending its complaint if the Settlement Fund remained in the case.

He said the whole discussion at the hearing on the Settlement Fund's motion to intervene revolved around the Settlement Fund's reading of the complaint triggering an interest that it needed to protect by intervening.

Thus, he said, a reasonable solution would be to amend the syntax of the complaint so that the interest the Settlement Fund imputed on the complaint was no longer there.

Mocanu said the Settlement Fund literally edited itself out of an interest in this case but then refused to withdraw.

He said that, according to the Settlement Fund, the Settlement Fund Appropriation Laws are constitutional and valid because they fund payments that are obligations imposed by the CNMI Constitution and the NMI District Court's judgment confirming the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

Mocanu said PSS does not argue that the Legislature may not make these appropriations or earmarks. He said PSS only argues that the revenue contained therein is special revenue and thus should be included in the calculation of the amount available for appropriation and subject to PSS' constitutional share.

PSS and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada are suing Torres and Atalig to press their argument that PSS should have a guaranteed annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue.

Torres and Atalig, through the Office of the Attorney General, argue that the governor's actions are allowed by his emergency powers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CWS

From Page 1

ment Compensation, both under the CARES Act federal funding.

At the radio briefing yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stated that they had hoped for U.S. Congress to make the CNMI's foreign workers eligible for the federal assistance program but that did not happen.

Unfortunately, Torres said, there is no local resources to help the foreign workforce since even the local government is also getting assistance from the federal government. "We're getting assistance from federal program to accommodate the shortfall of our revenue here. In terms of local revenue, local resources, we don't have any that's available now. Tourism is our only industry here, and we're still fighting to bring the first flight in," he said.

"As much as I would like to offer something, I'm not able to because tourism is our only industry. We don't have tourism here, and the other federal programs that we've been getting is under COVID-19 funds. They [CWs] do not qualify under the COVID-19 assistance, because it's not approved by the U.S. Congress," he added.

Local assistance

House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) is calling on his colleagues, as well as the Torres administration, to come together to help everyone who are ineligible for federal assistance.

"If the U.S. Department of Labor is not allowing guest workers to receive PUA, then my colleagues and I, along with Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios, must work together and find a way to help them, along with all our constituents who are ineligible for PUA as well," he said yesterday.

Propst proposes for the local government to issue disaster food stamps to CW-1 workers. Food stamps, however, are available only to U.S. citizens and a limited category of non-citizens.

"One of the hardest things about being a guest worker is that they don't have family here to fall back on during hard times. So it is up to us as a community to be their family, to be the ones they can lean on during the hardest of times," he added.

He also urged the government and business leaders to put their heads together and start developing temporary jobs that unemployed guest workers and locals can apply for. "Any job is better than no job," he said.

Community groups and non-profit organizations, such as the Friends of CWs, have been pooling resources to help provide food packs for foreign workers. There is also a GoFundMe fundraiser, organized by Jae Carrico, to help CW-1 workers. Their goal is to reach $5,000.

"Not only are they out [of] income to send back home to families, a common reason for signing the two-year commitment to the island workforce in the first place, many of them have been furloughed for months, running out of food, even losing their shelters with no way to get to their home countries," Carrico said. "A group of us here on island see this injustice and have created a [Facebook] group to help reach out to CW workers and get them food water and toiletries, the very basics, while this government and their employers continue to ignore them," Carrico said, adding that whatever will be collected will go toward food, water, and toiletries for the guest workers.

To donate, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-cw-workers-on-saipan-not-eligible-for-pua.

The PUA program, the maximum of which is at $345 a week, and the FPUC, which adds a supplemental $600 from March 29 to July 31, provide temporary benefits to those who have lost their jobs, or whose employment was interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19.

With no local funding, Torres advises foreign workers to reach out to U.S. Congress for assistance.

"I ask that they ask our U.S. Congress to have them included in the next batch, or next relief or amendment to the relief program because we don't have local funding to assist CWs or even our local capacity here," he said.

The governor signaled his willingness to work with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in order to address this issue of providing aid for CW-1 workers, saying his "doors are open" to Sablan.

GUAM

From Page 1

on Tuesday evening, wishing Leon Guerrero well as she recovers from the coronavirus.

This comes as one more person has tested positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI last Aug. 10, boosting the CNMI's cumulative total to 49. The newest case was discovered through the port-of-entry screening process.

Leon Guerrero assured that she remains at the helm of the Guam government, and that Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio remains negative for the coronavirus.

She confirmed her diagnosis in a statement issued late Tuesday night, soon after being told that her test had shown her positive for the virus. Later, in an interview with Guam's K57 radio host, Patti Arroyo, she said she may have gotten it from her son, Joaquin Cook, who had publicly announced that he tested positive for COVID-19 after coming in contact with someone who had also tested positive

"For me, it was an infection that I think occurred Tuesday. My son, Joaquin, also had been in contact with a positive person, and he wanted to make sure the family was safe. So all my family got tested on Wednesday, and we were all negative except for him," said Leon Guerrero, adding that all of them went into self-quarantine all the same.

The following Saturday after her negative result, Leon Guerrero said she started to feel some symptoms—she felt dizzy, "spacey," and not right. "That afternoon [Saturday], the whole night and the next day, were miserable days for me. Monday was better and today is much better. So hopefully, you know, I'm over it, but with this virus you cannot predict," said Leon Guerrero.

She said the virus "doesn't discriminate" and is contagious, serious, and the only way to prevent it, until there is a vaccine, is to quarantine and follow public health directions. "We need to be very vigilant, diligent, and so much adhering to what the mitigation efforts are," she said.

This was echoed by Torres and Palacios in the statement they issued Tuesday night, saying, "This virus affects all of us, and we need to do our part to slow the spread by helping one another as one Marianas. We need to take this seriously. Wash your hands. Watch your distance when out in public. And wear a mask.

"Please avoid unnecessary travel except trips to the grocery store and picking up food and medication. Please avoid contact with our *man'amko* and our loved ones with preexisting illnesses. They are most at risk to contract severe illness from the COVID-19 virus. …As Gov. Lou said, please use her experience and courage as a reminder to protect yourselves, your families, and our beautiful islands."

As for the CNMI's newest positive case, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said that the individual was identified through the incoming traveler screening and was moved to the designated isolation area where CHCC can closely monitor the individual.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts which includes passengers on the same flight, close family members, friends, and associates.

Of the CNMI's total 49 cases, 25 cases were identified through travel screening, with 20 of them originating from the U.S. mainland, two from a U.S. territory, and three from a foreign country.

OAG

From Page 1

abuse of its students.

In a letter to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio yesterday, Torres said he will be asking the attorney general to conduct a formal investigation into how PSS handles and manages allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

"It is my belief that those who have been victims of sexual assault by teachers or individuals of authority while in the Public School System deserve justice and, while it may be too late to safeguard them from the abuse, we can learn more and do more to protect our students today," Torres said.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from both Tenorio and Ada but they had yet to respond as of press time yesterday.

However, when Torres first outlined his legislative priorities last Aug. 8. 2020, that placed "greater safety for students" as a priority, Ada issued a statement supporting the governor's efforts. "We support initiatives that are aimed at improving and complementing the child protection systems and protocols that have been established to safeguard both our children and personnel from all forms of risk, including sexual abuse," said Ada's statement.

He described Torres' proposed legislative initiative as "the right way forward."

In his newest letter to PSS leaders, Torres said that parents and PSS stakeholders have endured for many years the anxiety and stress over concerns of sexual assault on students by teachers and administrators.

"These circumstances have persisted for many years, and much of the allegations of abuse that shock the conscience have occurred prior to your leadership of our school system. Yet, I trust in your agreement that we should do everything we can to ensure our schools remain safe for our children," Torres said.

He said that many of the allegations have not resulted in a public accounting, with parents not provided the solace that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the further safety of their children while in schools.

Torres hopes that the results of the investigation will aid in the effort to better understand the historical and current context relating to the protection of children from sexual offenders masquerading as caretakers.

"It is my hope to engage with the Legislature and our current school administrators to ensure proper care is provided to allegations of sexual assault and that future school administrators are held to account for their responsibility in securing our children from sexual predation," he said.

Aside from justice, Torres also hopes that the investigation will allow the opportunity to provide sexual assault victims with the assistance they never received.

Last week, Thursday, the governor reached out to the Legislature and laid down his legislative priorities, among which is to create greater safety for students in response to allegations of sexual abuse in PSS.

JURY

From Page 1

started the jury selection process yesterday. The trial will resume today, Wednesday, at 8:15am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government; David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig; and Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Evelyn Atalig, have all agreed to allow the eight Guam witnesses to testify via video-teleconference.

The witnesses are Chelsea Ann F. Aquai, Julie Rivera, Angel R. Sablan, Kevin Susuico, Carmen I. Aguigui, Frank Salas, William Mendiola Castro, and Edward San Nicolas.

With their testimonies delivered through video at the federal courthouse in Guam, this "ensures that the testimony will be both reliable and subject to an adversarial testing in a manner functionally equivalent to that accorded live, in-person testimony," said O'Malley, Banes, and Pixley.

Current quarantine measures generally require all incoming persons to be quarantined for a certain period of time after entering the CNMI. This means that, if off-island witnesses are required to testify in person, they would have to fly to Saipan days before the date they are expected to testify to undergo the quarantine procedure.

Furthermore, the lawyers said, being aboard a flight is a potential risk factor for contracting COVID-19, and if those witnesses contract COVID-19 during their flights, the quarantine period may be even longer.

Meanwhile, the prosecution filed Monday and yesterday a motion to quash defendants' subpoenas that sought the personnel records of OAG's Travis Hurst, and OPA's Edward R. Cabrera, and Juan Santos, who are criminal investigators who participated in the investigation of this case and may testify as witnesses for the U.S. government. The return date for both subpoenas was yesterday, Aug. 11, at 4:30pm.

In the U.S. government's first motion to quash, O'Malley said the U.S. government has an interest in preventing the defendants from harassing its witnesses. He said the OAG and OPA have already produced all relevant evidence requested by the defendants' subpoena to the U.S. government and any responsive material has been provided during the ordinary course of discovery.

Forcing OPA and OAG to comply with this overly-broad subpoena will serve no legitimate purpose, he added.

Yesterday, assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe, who is co-counsel of O'Malley, also moved the court to quash the subpoena for Hurst's tax records.

Backe said the subpoena was issued Monday, Aug. 10, and addressed to the CNMI Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation and seeks "all tax records of Hurst filed for the period of 2011 to 2014." The requested return date is today, Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 9am.

Backe said compliance with the subpoena would be unreasonable and oppressive, because, in addition to being an unwarranted invasion of privacy, disclosure of Hurst's tax returns and return information would constitute a direct violation of CNMI law.

Last Friday, Manglona granted Efraim Atalig's renewed motion for remote testimony of his eight witnesses at trial.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

‘Make PUA a great priority’

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

To ensure displaced workers receive financial aid, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) is calling on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to make the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance one of the greatest priority in the CNMI.

Manglona stressed in a letter to the governor that it is critical for the government to do everything it could to get unemployment aid money immediately into the hands of the more than 8,000 government and private sector employees that have lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Let us all make PUA one of our greatest priority to ensure that all our displaced workers, both in government and private sectors, in all our islands, receive the immediate financial aid they are entitled to,” he said.

The lawmaker also raised the need to support the CNMI Department of Labor and all its manpower working hours to review and process the applications. Aside from processing applications, CNMI Labor must also report to the U.S. Department of Labor on workload activity, particularly the number of claims, weeks claims, and subject employers, as well as information about non-monetary determinations and appeals.

According to the senator, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente informed him that the department needs at least 50 more personnel to process the thousands of unemployment applications they have received. “It is crucial that we address this major understaffing issue.”

Manglona also urged Torres to “reassess, pool, and commit all limited financial and manpower resources to the Department of Labor” so that the processing of applications and distribution of assistance can be improved and made faster. “The shortcomings in the Commonwealth’s financial system undoubtedly affected our PUA distribution timeframe. We must do what we can to help alleviate the hardships and sufferings of the several thousands of individuals affected by unemployment or reduced hours.

“We must absolutely step up our efforts and give this department our full attention. The longer our people go without any income, the deeper they sink into debt, leaving them in financial ruts that can take years to overcome,” he added.

Muña: Minimize non-essential travel

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the CNMI seeing most of its new positive COVID-19 cases among incoming travelers, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said this underscores the Centers for Disease and Control’s message that people “should not be doing non-essential travel.”

“In regards to non-essential travel, that’s what the message is with CDC that, at this point right now with the pandemic, people really should not be having non-essential travel,” said Muña at a recent radio news briefing.

At the same time, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said at the same radio news briefing that the CDC classified the CNMI as a “high-risk” area mainly because it falls under a certain population demographic. Still, Torres said the CNMI’s effort needs to be appreciated and highlighted “because it doesn’t matter about the population threshold that they have.”

He added that even if CDC has marked the CNMI as a “high-risk area,” there are other listings that says the CNMI is “very safe” and “we are a low-risk community.”

“I just want to address and acknowledge all the hard work of our first responders, the hospital, the [COVID-19] task force, [and] our community. Our community has been tremendously just awesome and working together, sacrificing together, prioritizing our public health,” said Torres. “I think that all of us should give that appreciation, as a whole CNMI, that continue to make CNMI a very safe place, despite what the recent report came out.”

Muña echoed Torres, saying that there are other data generating teams that have said that the CNMI has the lowest risk. “It depends on which organization issues the determination. However, with CDC, non-essential travel is the message right now…and non-essential travel should really be minimized,” said Muña.

She said the CDC will be attending a meeting with the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands later this week to explain other factors that they’re looking into as to how to determine what a high-risk area is, and if there is a need to change it. She stated that there will be a global health division of CDC that will be participating in that meeting.

“CDC officials that are working with U.S. API have praised the CNMI with everyone else, that the U.S. APIs are one of the safest places. So to put us in ‘high-risk’ is really, you know, even in their opinion, it doesn’t seem right,” said Muña.

Muña does have mixed feelings about the meeting with U.S. API, with the CNMI seeing more new positive cases with arrivals.

“The issue here is that we are seeing arrivals of positive cases and that is a concern, [but] as long as we continue to control our borders, we can be comfortable with that and prevent the spread here in the CNMI,” said Muña.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DOF/EDP-097

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“HYPER CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DIVISION OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, MR. JOSEPH TORRES, AT rfp@dof.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, AUGUST 17, 2020 ChST. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D & W Saipan, Inc. The list of officers for D & W Saipan Inc., are Hyeon Kyu Lee, as President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, as Vice-President/Director, and Sung Soo Lim, as Secretary/Director.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of D & W Saipan, Inc., mainly Hyeon Kyu Lee and Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of general automotive products, including but not limited to fuel products auto inspection, office, and warehouse space necessary to conduct business and other related purposes.

The term of the proposed lease extension agreement is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL’s regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De’Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENDIN ATKILON TANU’ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku ha nå’i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma’atkila palu na tanu’ pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna’na’halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu’ pupbliku. Kumu mås mo’na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu’ pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 090 D 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikonosimientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i D & W Saipan, Inc. I listan ufisiåt siha para D & W Saipan Inc., si Hyeon Kyu Lee, komu Presidenti/Direktot, si Ei Sook Kim Lee, komu Sigundu Presidenti/Direktot, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Sekritåriu/Direktot.

iii. I maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendin yan Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon ha tåttitiyi i regulasión DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i D & W Saipan, Inc., mayotmenti si Hyeon Kyu Lee yan si Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu ha’ na rason nu mambendi yan nu “general automotive products,” ingklusu låo ti chi’ña para “fuel products auto inspection,” ufisina, o sino “warehouse space” nisisåriu para u makundukta i bisnis yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon inekstendi sa kinsi (15) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada’ såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusientus nu i bålin “appraised fair market” i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina’halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendi yan i Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon siña machuli’ gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De’Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King’s Commercial Building, giya Tini’an. I kopia managuaha lokkui’ gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku tåya’ ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma’atkila masuhetu na tanu’ pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi’ upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu’ Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL SÓBWEEYTÁL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwungubwungúl fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap isiis arongorong reel aar itittiw ngáli atkkilóónol ákkåáw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Alléghúl Toulap 15-2 ebwal ayoorai, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge Lot 090 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 3,000 square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge D & W Saipan, Inc. List-al officers ngáli D & W Saipan Inc., nge Hyeon Kyu Lee, bwe President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, bwe Vice-President/Director, me Sung Soo Lim, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/Director.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwung iye e Lálåáyló me Aruwooowal Liiwel ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e tipifool fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwolsángi officers me directors-il D & W Saipan, Inc., spesiatemente Hyeon Kyu Lee me Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli akkaméélól me angaangil “general automotive products”, e bwal schuulong nge ese mwutch ngáli “fuel products auto inspection”, bwulasiyo, me “warehouse space” iye e ffil ngáli rebwe ffééru mwóghutughutúl “business” me ákkåáw mwóghut ikka e toolong.

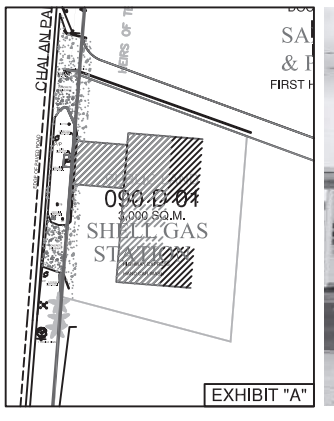
Pommwol abwungubwungúl láálåáyil atkkilóón nge seigh me limoow ráágh.

pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel “percentage” sángi “appraised fair market value” reel falúw ebwal schuulong “applicable percentage” reel “Business gross Receipts” llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Lálåáyil Abwungubwung me Aruwoowal Liiwel ngáli Pommwol Atkkilóón emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De’Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay me Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Elúwel 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan , MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice of Program Availability
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – COVID

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Link: https://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications until Friday, August 14, 2020, and because we have already exceeded our projected number of families to be assisted, NMHC will STOP accepting applications on Friday, August 21, 2020, 4:30 pm until further notice. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice of Program Availability
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)– COVID (Second Allocation)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the CDBG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $274,635 in CDBG-COVID funds to provide emergency housing assistance, specifically mortgage assistance, for CNMI households experiencing financial hardship, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Qualified Alien;
- Must be employed or have income;
- Gross Household Income must be less than 80% of the NMI Area Median Income (AMI) for FY 2020 as determined by HUD;
- Must be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic (e.g. reduction of hours, furloughed but receiving income such as PUA);
- Must show proof of delinquency on a mortgage.
- HUD or NMHC Assisted Loan Borrowers (e.g. HOME Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program) will not qualify as this will be considered a duplication of benefits.
- SBA or USDA RD borrowers must first avail of their respective programs' COVID-19 assistance.

Information on the CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance
- First come, first serve basis;
- Qualified Households will be assisted for a maximum of 3 months;
- If a household is more than 3 months delinquent with their mortgage, they must first pay the outstanding balance above the 3 months' delinquency amount before the assistance is given;
- NMHC will pay the lending institution directly;
- The assistance will be in the amount of up to $900/month for a period of 3 months.

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

Please note that if you have already applied for the CDBG-COVID program, our case workers are continuously working on case assessments and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications and will STOP accepting applications when the projected number of borrowers to be assisted has been reached. The public will be informed of the last day for application acceptance. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact the Mortgage and Credit Division at 234-6866/7689/9447.

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CUC issues advisory on use of tap water in selected areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. reiterated yesterday its advisory to some of its water customers to avoid drinking or cooking with tap water so as to limit exposure to two industrial chemicals called perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, and perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA.

The affected villages are Chalan Laulau, I Liyang, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, San Jose (Oleai) and parts of southern Garapan, Gualo Rai. Susupe, As Lito, and As Perdido.

Since 2016, CUC has regularly detected levels of PFOS and PFOA that exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lifetime Health Advisory level of 70 parts per trillion in a limited area of its drinking water system. The EPA lifetime health advisory level is the amount below which no harm is expected from PFOS and PFOA based on a daily consumption of water over a lifetime.

A proven way to remove PFOS and PFOA is to filter the contaminated water through a granulated activated carbon system. CUC has identified funding for the purchase of GAC units that will be installed sometime beginning this fall and next year.

Until CUC has GAC systems, it has tried to reduce the amount of PFOS and PFOA in the water by removing a total of 10 wells that contain high levels of PFOS and PFOA. The last two wells were turned off on Jan. 30, 2020, and a sample was collected on Feb. 4, 202,0 from the As Terlaje Tank that serves the affected areas. The sample contained 25 parts per trillion PFOS and this is below the EPA health advisory level. A sample collected on March 23, 2020, contained 31 ppt PFOS and the most recent sample collected on June 11, 2020, contained 29 ppt PFOS. "We expect the amount of PFOS and PFOA to vary over time because these contaminants move throughout the underground water field," CUC said in its advisory, adding that CUC is making this advisory action to help the affected population limit their lifetime exposure to these chemicals.

Although the February, March, and June samples were below the EPA health advisory level, CUC continues to advise consumers in the affected areas to avoid ingesting the water until CUC has installed the GAC filtration systems that will reliably reduce the amounts of PFOS and PFOA below the EPA health advisory level.

Consumers within the affected areas (shaded in dark tan/gray) should not drink tap water, cook with tap water, or make ice for consumption with tap water. CUC water can be used for bathing or washing dishes or clothes as PFOS and PFOA do not move easily through the skin.

Call CUC's 24-hour Call Center at (670) 664-4282 if you have questions about PFOS and PFOA in CUC's water in your area.

For more information about PFOS and PFOA, visit EPA's webpage at https://www.epa.gov/ groundwater-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos or BECQ Safe Drinking Water Program at (6 70) 664-8500. ***(PR)***

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0231
-v-	:	
The Estate of JESUS TILIPAO TEREGEYO, Deceased, Defendant.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 16, 2020, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 1097, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 20 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's file no. 93-4288, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
843 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:
None material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 21, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 22nd day of July, 2020:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Manibusan: DOC officials being sued were acting within scope of their jobs

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has certified that Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez and a former DOC chief were acting within the scope of their employment at the time when the alleged incidents occurred as claimed by an inmate who is suing them again for allegedly subjecting him to unlawful treatment.

Manibusan also certified that Corrections director Gregory Castro and DOC official Georgia Cabrera were acting within the scope of their employment at the time of the incidents as alleged by inmate Price Shoiter in the lawsuit.

He notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the Commonwealth shall be substituted for Villagomez, Attao, Castro, and Cabrera as the defendants in the four causes of action in Shoiter's lawsuit.

Manibusan informed the court about his certification Monday.

Castro is being furloughed. Cabrera is currently the director of Corrections.

Shoiter, one of the 14 inmates who settled their lawsuit against DOC officials in 2018, is suing Villagomez, Attao, Castro, and Cabrera again in federal court for alleged broken promises and subjecting him to unlawful treatment.

Shoiter, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, is suing the defendants in their personal capacities.

Shoiter is suing Attao, Villagomez, Castro, and Cabrera for violation of Civil Rights under the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. and the CNMI constitutions, violation of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code, gross negligence, and emotional distress.

Shoiter is demanding unspecified damages.

The inmate wants the court to declare that Attao's, Castro, Cabrera, and Villagomez's policies, practices, acts are unlawful and violate his rights under the Constitution and laws of the U.S. and the CNMI.

He wants the court to stop Attao, Castro, Cabrera, and Villagomez and their subordinates from subjecting him to unlawful and unconstitutional treatment. He also demanded an award of attorney's fees and litigation costs. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN

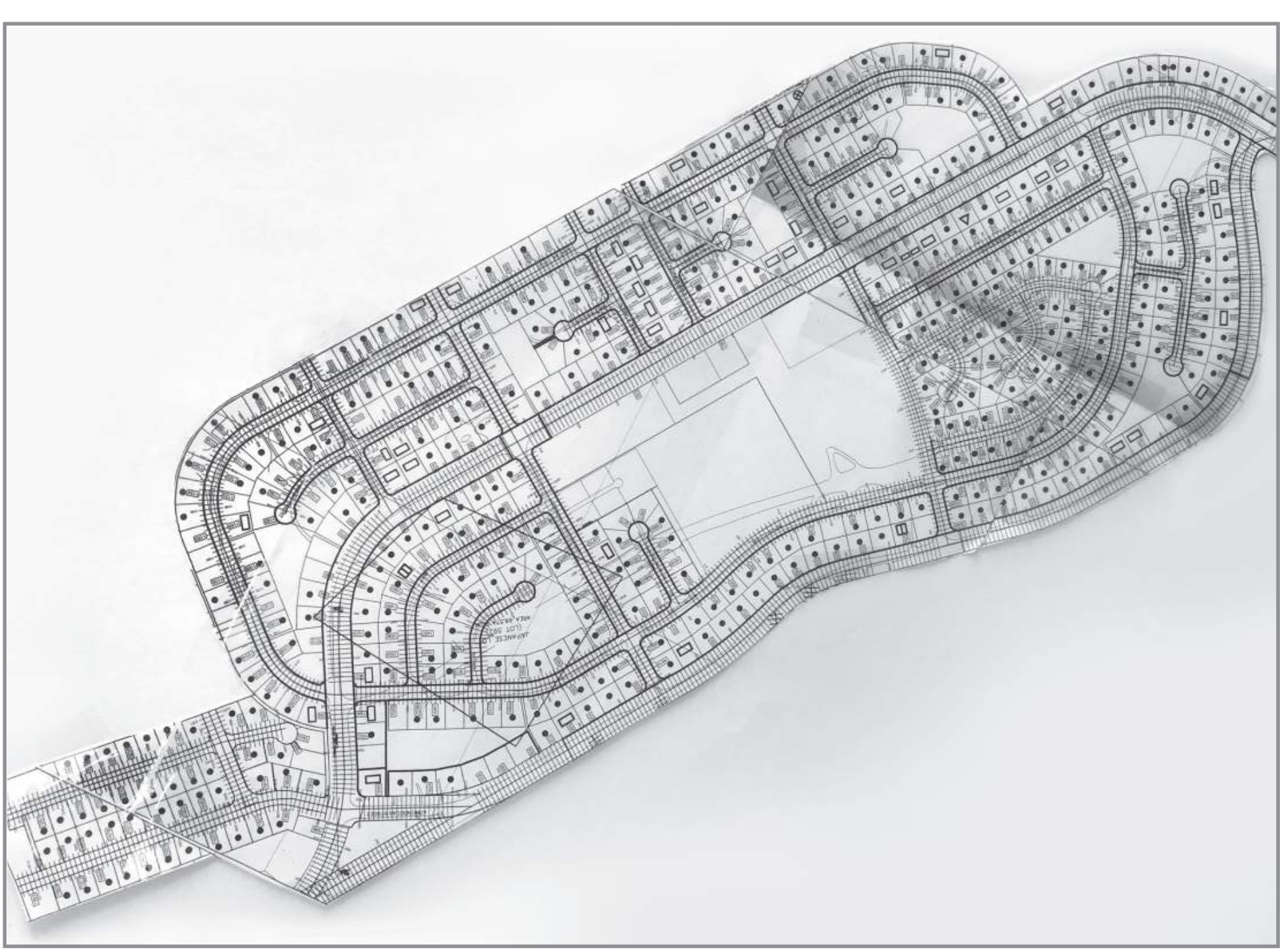
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan will start conducting onsite visits to homes and commercial and non-commercial buildings in the Koblerville homestead subdivision and immediate surrounding subdivisions beginning August 3, 2020, for the purpose of delivering in person to each homeowner and owner of a commercial or non-commercial building their property's designated street address number. The map of the initial project area of Koblerville homestead subdivision, former MIHA turnkey subdivision, and Tottotville subdivision is shown below.

Mayor David M. Apatang respectfully requests the support and understanding of the homeowners and owners of buildings in the project area to welcome his office's street addressing staff and his office's consultant staff who will be visiting their homes and buildings beginning August 3, 2020.

The next project area will be announced at least two weeks before the initial project (as shown on the map below) is completed.

Mayor Apatang appreciates your support and understanding as his office endeavors to carry out the addressing project so that every home and commercial and non-commercial building will be numbered.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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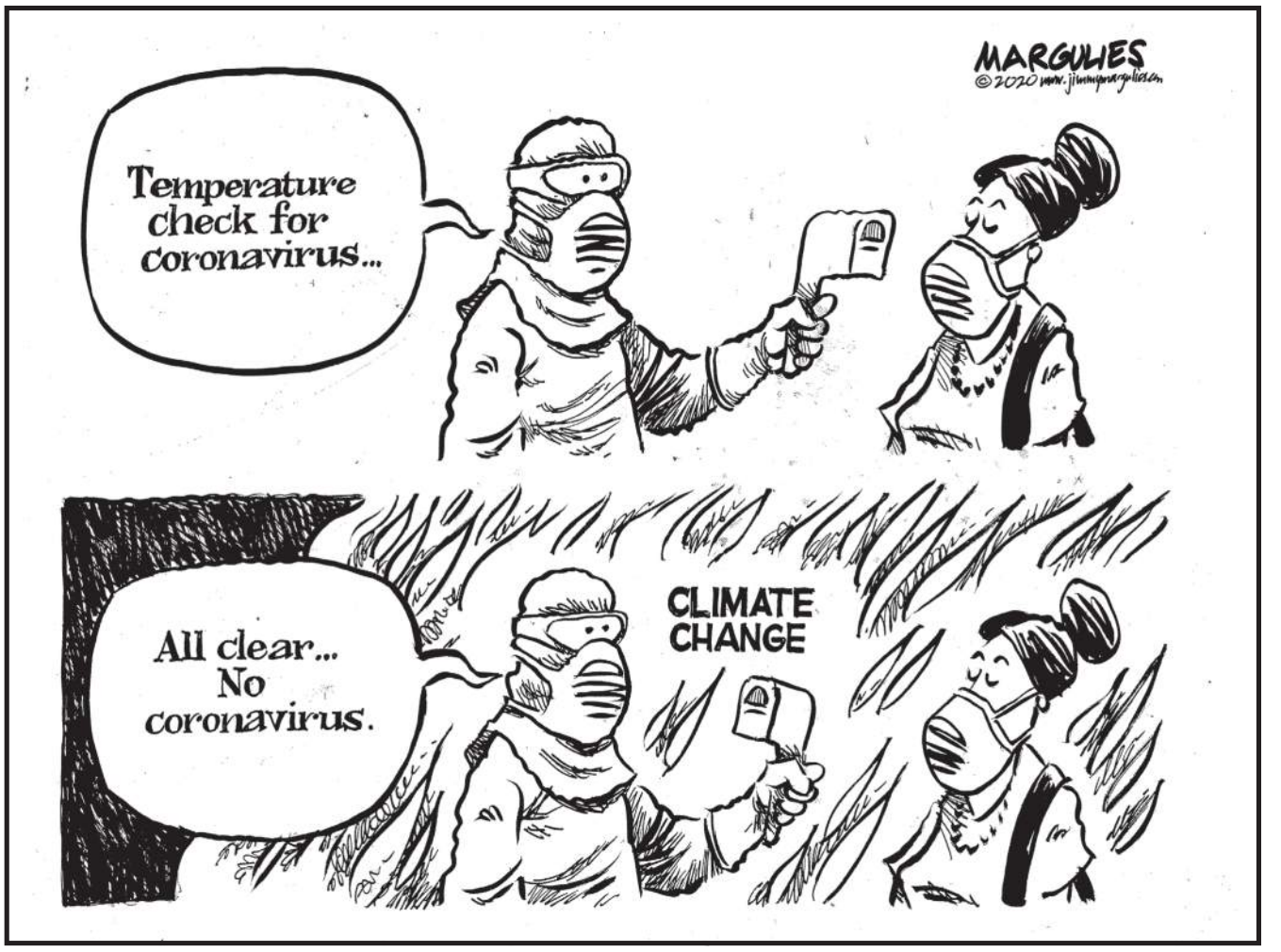

EDITORIAL

Partying our way to more coronavirus death and destruction?

After weeks of bad coronavirus news, Californians glimpsed a sliver of hope this week: The average number of people hospitalized or admitted to the ICU with COVID-19 infections has declined over the last two weeks. Infections might have ebbed significantly as well, but we won't know for sure until the state fixes a data collection foul-up.

While there are still problem areas, such as in the Central Valley, the new data suggest that measures taken in June to close down some businesses that had recently reopened and limit others to outdoor operations have succeeded in slowing the resurgence of infections that began around Memorial Day. If this trend continues, it means that the average number of daily deaths, which lags behind the changes in infections and hospitalizations, will also decline. Nationwide, the picture is looking brighter as well, with infection hot spots such as Florida, Arizona and Texas seeing new cases decline after state officials enacted similar restrictions.

However hopeful, this is not the time to celebrate the beginning of the end of the pandemic. For one thing, there will be no end until there's a widely available vaccine, or vaccines, taken by a sufficient percentage of people. Or until everyone who can be infected has been, whichever comes first. Indeed, Californians were at this point just three months ago, and we saw how well that turned out. Within weeks, hope turned to despair as complacency and caution fatigue opened the door wide for COVID-19. California hasn't reached New York's pandemic death toll, but it has reported more cases than that or any other state.

Nor is this a moment to relax our collective vigilance. Yet that's what about 200 people did Monday night in the Hollywood Hills, in direct violation of county public health orders. Television footage from helicopters hovering over the party at a Mulholland Drive mansion showed dozens of people apparently not practicing social distancing or wearing face masks. Astoundingly, police officers called to the scene did not break it up; instead, they returned hours later, after shots rang out. Tragically, four people were injured and one died, and there could be more death to come as a result of the hours spent together in close quarters. Private gatherings have been documented as a significant source of spread of the coronavirus.

If this were a lone instance, it wouldn't cause undue concern. However, a number of house parties have cropped up around Los Angeles' hilly neighborhoods and other areas after bars and nightclubs were ordered closed, authorities report.

In normal times, mass gatherings at rented mansions are a regular headache for the Hollywood Hills, where neighbors complain of noise, traffic and clogged streets. But during an

See PARTYING on Next Page

You are being judged—not just watched and tracked—24/7

By CHRIS REED
The San Diego Union-Tribune

Chris Reed is the deputy editorial and opinion editor of The San Diego Union-Tribune. *Twitter: @chrisreed99. Email: chris.reed@sduniontribune.com*

In 2014, China announced it would set up a system to judge its citizens: on their trustworthiness, their public and social media behavior, the wisdom of their purchasing habits, how often they play video games, their interactions with law enforcement and government officials, whether they clean up after their dogs and more. Many pundits and academics saw this as an extraordinary step by an authoritarian state to enforce conformity on its 1.3 billion-plus residents.

China isn't doing this just to nudge people to be better citizens. Instead, it is punishing or rewarding them based on their "social credit score." High rankings ensure quicker processing of government documents, better access to goods and housing, and other sorts of preferential treatment. Low rankings reduce or eliminate access to many goods, public and private services and travel options.

Beijing actively shames individuals it finds wanting. A cellphone app produces a graphic showing those nearby who are socially "deficient" and why they are considered untrustworthy. As Newsweek reported in 2018, the biggest sin of all is being a government critic. It detailed how an investigative journalist who had gone after official corruption found his daughter denied access to good schools, among many other penalties. Shades of "1984."

Yet as many publications have pointed out, the United States has a de facto equivalent—except it is overseen by private companies, not the government. These firms use artificial intelligence-driven algorithms to vacuum up a stunning variety of information points collected automatically by cellphone applications and off the internet. They use this data to make sweeping judgments about Americans—all without transparency about what goes into these judgments.

In one example, employers buy scores from HireVue and Cornerstone to judge the merits of job candidates based in part on what algorithms conclude about their facial scans and speaking patterns.

The Washington Post reported last year that "HireVue's 'AI-driven assessments' have become so pervasive in some industries, including hospitality and finance, that universities make special efforts to train students on how to look and speak for best results. More than 100 employers now use the system, including Hilton and Unilever, and more than a million job seekers have been analyzed."

In another revelation, landlords buy scores from CoreLogic and TransUnion to evaluate not just the finances of potential renters but their trustworthiness.

This should be extraordinarily controversial, not just the occasional topic of tech journalists. As California consumer advocates Harvey Rosenfield and Laura Antonini pointed out recently in the Post, these ratings are tantamount to a high-tech version of Jim Crow laws: "Surveillance scoring enables companies to cloak old-school discrimination in an aura of technological infallibility and wonder."

Using finances as a proxy for people's character or their worth as a potential employee is hugely problematic given that poverty is more prevalent in Black and Latino communities than white ones. And without thorough explanations on how algorithms judge individuals on what their faces look like and how they talk—among many possible examples—it's certainly conceivable they are using the same stereotypes that have created obstacles for communities of color for centuries.

What makes the growing use of these tools to judge individuals so hard to believe is they go against some of the strongest cultural trends of the past decade. The Black Lives Matter movement is focused on racial inequality. The Occupy movement focused on income inequality.

But perhaps these movements should focus as much on the private sector as government. The idea that companies are ramping up use of algorithms that constantly make snap judgments on us all—judgments with potentially deep consequences for our lives—feels like the corporate version of the police tech in the movie "Minority Report."

Maybe this will finally turn the community of those who back online privacy into a movement of its own. Those who don't give a second thought to apps tracking us to figure out what products we want to buy may change their minds when they realize the 24/7/365 tech surveillance we've accepted or acquiesced to is being weaponized against many by our judgmental domestic Skynet.

I, for one, do not welcome our new AI overlords.

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The same neglect and bad decisions that led me to leave Beirut are to blame for last week's explosion

By CHRISTINA TKACIK
The Baltimore Sun

Christina Tkacik (ctkacik@baltsun.com) is the dining reporter for The Baltimore Sun.

On Aug. 4, a massive explosion in Beirut's port killed at least 160 people and injured thousands more. When bad things happen in Lebanon, observers often assume it's terrorism; the country has long been plagued by bombings and attacks from extremist groups. But the cause here, it seems, was not outright malice, but something just as corrosive: ongoing neglect and bad decisions.

For the past six years, more than 2,700 tons of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, confiscated from a foreign ship, was inexplicably being stored in a port warehouse; it is being looked at as the likely source of the blast.

Perhaps I had seen it arrive from my apartment window.

I moved to Lebanon in 2013 to start a master's program at the American University of Beirut. What better place, I thought, to jump-start a career in journalism than a city that was always in the news? At times I thought I could live there forever.

"Beirut is the Elizabeth Taylor of cities: insane, beautiful, falling apart, aging, and forever drama laden," the Lebanese novelist Rabih Alameddine wrote. It has been called "Paris of the Middle East"; I often thought it was something better.

By the summer after I graduated in 2015, the cracks in Beirut's fashionable facade were showing, however. After a major dump closed, trash piled up in roadways, its stink inescapable in restaurants. There were massive protests but little change. In November of that year, suicide bombers killed dozens in the city's southern suburbs; ISIS claimed responsibility.

Suddenly, I had had enough. I packed up what I could in two suitcases and left the country.

Last week, thousands of miles away in Baltimore, I consumed the city's latest trauma through news and social media accounts. I imagined what it would be like to watch the explosion—its horrible mushroom cloud—from my apartment overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

I envisioned the huge glass windows blowing out onto my bedspread, the shards embedding into the knit of the blanket. Where would I sleep?

Journalists showed videos of the ruined neighborhood Gemmayzeh, where I had taken Arabic lessons at the Saifi Institute and made friends from around the world. (Ali Dirani, whose family owns the place, tells me on Facebook they are safe.)

Homes and buildings have been destroyed for miles. Sursock Palace, a grand Ottoman style mansion that survived Lebanon's Civil War was ravaged, its owners sent to the hospital, according to a social media post.

The impact ripped through nearby St. George Hospital, killing four nurses and more than a dozen patients, according to The New York Times; years ago, I had visited a close friend there after the birth of her son.

On Instagram, people have shared pictures of the missing, including those first responders who had tried to put out the fire that preceded the blast. Electricity, always spotty, is still out in much of the city, making it difficult to search for survivors, according to the Times.

Lebanese people are resilient. They rebuilt after a 15-year civil war that split Beirut in two and ended with murderous warlords being appointed members of Parliament. They've survived the daily terror of car bombs, and both the Palestinian and Syrian refugee crises.

But the cracks I saw in 2015 have only worsened. The value of the Lebanese pound, pegged to the U.S. dollar, has plummeted since last fall, wiping out people's life savings. In dire financial straits, my alma mater, AUB, long a source of pride for the country and the region, has sacked hundreds of employees, including at their medical center.

Headlines have long said Lebanon is "on the brink." With last week's explosion, it fell off the cliff.

Among the victims were the main port and grain silo in this country, which relies on imports and is already facing bread shortages.

As my friend, the journalist Habib Battah said in an interview: "I don't know how many more things this country can humanly go through."

While I had the option to leave Lebanon when I felt unsafe, many others have no choice but to carry on.

They can't do it alone. The world must show the Lebanese people that we have not abandoned them, even though their government has. We must give generously to organizations like the Lebanese Red Cross and others saving lives and providing shelter to homeless families.

We must demand justice for those who lost their lives, and for those whose lives are left in pieces.

Good science takes time—even during a pandemic

By DR. JOHN L. WALLACE
Chicago Tribune

Dr. John L. Wallace is founder of the Inflammation Research Network at the University of Calgary and chief scientific officer at Antibe Therapeutics.

Good science takes time. This has always been clear to those of us doing health research—less so to the general public. In the pursuit of treatments for COVID-19, we need to manage expectations about what's not just possible, but also desirable.

Finding a vaccine is difficult work, but it's not like finding a needle in a haystack. Scientists start from a place of knowledge. Researchers around the world are already working on more than 150 possible vaccines, with 22 in human trials. There are also thousands of previously developed pharmaceuticals in testing. A vaccine for COVID-19 is quite likely to arrive faster than any before it. Yet despite all that, we need to remember that it will take many months, likely years. And, frankly, it should.

Why so long? Because we need time to do it right, no matter what incentives, resources and pressures are applied. Ensuring safety is especially critical for older people, who are more susceptible to COVID-19 and other health issues. But it matters to us all.

A COVID-19 vaccine will be administered rapidly to billions of people with a vast range of genetic, health and environmental circumstances. Testing these populations and subpopulations will require immense planning and coordination. It can't all be done in parallel; some new results will necessitate new investigations.

As Merck's CEO Ken Frazier noted recently in an interview, "we don't want to rush the vaccine before we've done rigorous science. We've seen in the recent past with the swine flu, for example, that that vaccine did more harm than good. We don't have a great history of introducing vaccines quickly in the middle of a pandemic. We want to keep that in mind."

Good science takes time.

Meanwhile, people and governments have already shown that they're willing to take shortcuts. Individuals have begged, borrowed and stolen in pursuit of personal protection equipment, medicine and other household essentials, from hand sanitizer to toilet paper. Governments have bid up prices, invoked emergency powers and practically hijacked shipments of gear to supply their citizens. They've spent billions for access to medicines that don't exist yet.

With so much hanging in the balance, people are trafficking in information instead. It's tempting to simplify, to overclaim, to speak beyond one's expertise. There has been a surge in unreviewed research. Early publication makes data and lines of inquiry available to other researchers faster, but it also facilitates misinformation, premature reporting and social-media speculation. In January, a "preprint" describing a study on COVID-19's origins circulated on Twitter and was covered by news media before attracting scientific criticism and a separate research paper devoted to debunking its findings.

Even the medical journals—bastions of peer-reviewed science and notoriously picky in what they publish—have come under fire for publishing studies that needed to be walked back. The Lancet and the New England Journal of Medicine, august journals with nearly 400 years of history between them, both recently found themselves issuing coronavirus retractions on the same day. The New York Times reported that the peer-review process favored by these and other journals has been condensed from months to days.

Social scientists have also been rushing to publish amid the pandemic, to their peril. Again, many of their COVID-19 papers are being rushed into print—written and reviewed on timelines more appropriate for daily journalism than the intended permanence of scientific literature.

"I was recently asked to review three such papers for a scientific journal," University of Chicago professor Anthony Fowler wrote recently in an opinion piece for Bloomberg. "Although an editor might normally give me six weeks to complete one review, I was asked to complete three reviews in just one week."

And these are the pitfalls for well-intentioned claims. I try not to think about ones with less pure motives. But they do exist.

It's also important to distinguish between the science itself and the organizational obstacles that new research needs to navigate. The irony there is that there are more legitimate ways than ever to streamline science through collaboration. Artificial intelligence. Tailored drug discovery. Digital tools like cloud storage, teleconferencing and Slack. Endless avenues for creating, analyzing and sharing big data. These are all in our favor when it comes to beating COVID-19.

But when it comes to the actual research and trials, speed cannot be the driving priority. My own company is conducting drug trials right now. Not for COVID-19, but for pain treatment. Of course, we want to take our treatment to market with all due speed. But our trials can't be rushed without creating unacceptable risks.

And neither can a COVID-19 vaccine, even though a global pandemic feels like it should be different. We all want a vaccine as quickly as possible, and we should be everything prudent to make it happen. But it has to work, and it has to be safe, for as many people as possible. No matter what it's for, good science takes time.

PARTYING

From Page 8

outbreak of an infectious disease, the harm can ripple far more widely. California Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly said Tuesday that such an event can jeopardize the state's efforts to keep infection rates in check. Good going, people!

Partying in the face of a pandemic isn't just foolish; it's a giant slap in the face to everyone who has followed the rules, even at great personal cost, in order to protect the larger community.

Los Angeles officials are grappling with ways to stop the parties, or at least punish property owners who allow their homes to be used for illicit gatherings. Good. We're not in favor of arresting people for violating pandemic restrictions, but authorities must figure out how to discourage this kind of dangerously irresponsible activity. Neither California nor the country are out of the woods yet. The coronavirus is still very much present, with more waves potentially to come. How well we fare will depend entirely on us.

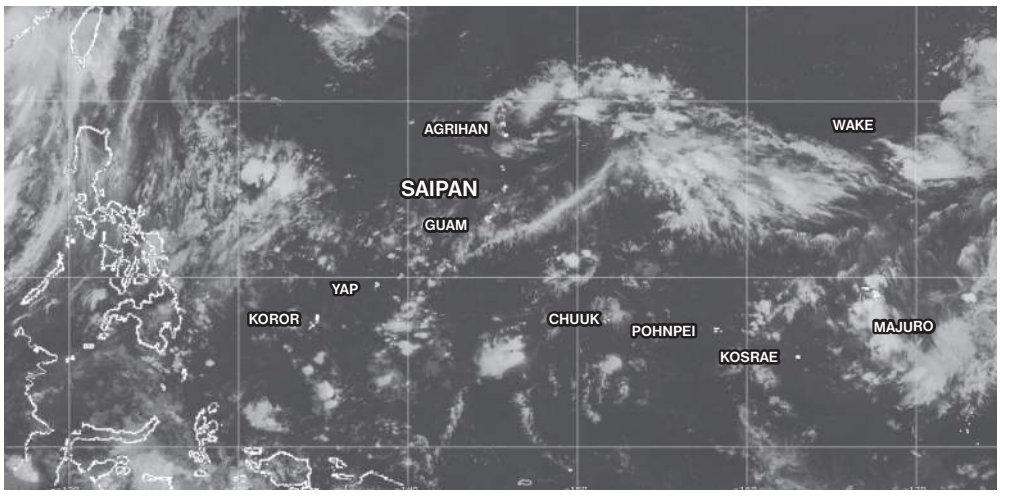
(c) 2020 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms each afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms each afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms each afternoon.
88° 79°	87° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas. Some of the showers, mainly those north of 16N, are receiving extra vigor from an upper-level low near 19N and 149E. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed of east to east-northeast swell from trade winds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:41 PM	-
Thursday	12:26 AM	1:32 PM	-
Friday	1:10 AM	2:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:58 AM	3:21 PM	-
Sunday	2:52 AM	4:17 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	62° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Paris	Showers	97° / 71°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	94° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
8:04 AM	LOW TIDE	0.59
2:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.51
7:47 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

PIC's Seaside Grill Sunset reopens tomorrow

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Get ready to end your day and start your evening with a perfect plan as Pacific Island Club Saipan's Seaside Grill Sunset reopens tomorrow. After almost six months of respite, your favorite happy hour place is ready to serve and bring back normalcy into your lives by offering your all-time favorite drinks and dishes while watching the sun go down with loved ones, colleagues, or friends.

"The staff and I are excited to welcome familiar faces and regular customers as they have been asking for us to open and now we are finally doing it… People can expect to have their favorite plain or spiced potato skins served again with our happy hour drinks and food menu," said PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh.

"It is as if nothing's changed as we still offer 50% off on the drinks menu and 50% off on our food menu during happy hour… The menu hasn't changed," Cavanagh added.

Whether you are a beer or cocktail drinker, you will find your favorite on the bar menu list. Smoothies are also available for non-drinkers. For happy hour food, enjoy their fresh ceviche, lumpia, tapas, and more.

Seaside Grill Sunset's happy hour is from 5pm to 7pm Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and good times can be extended all the way to dinner from 7pm to 9pm where they offer 20% discount as long as you have a reservation.

"If you happen to be in at Seaside Grill during happy hour and we still have room come dinner time we can accommodate you. We just encourage everyone to call in for reservations because of the limited seating under Level Blue… For dinner, we are bringing back popular dishes with the local market and we added different set of paninis for those who just wants to have a light dinner" Cavanagh said

"Health and safety protocols are in place in accordance to the regulations of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Bureau of Environmental Health… the community can be assured that all employees have been trained because the safety and enjoyment of our customers is our priority," Cavanagh added.

Cavanagh said that reopening the Seaside Grill Sunset is just the beginning for PIC before it goes back to full-blown operations that entails opening other restaurants, the waterpark, and accommodations. "We want to start small and be good at it first and since bringing back the happy hour at Seaside Grill Sunset has had the most demand, we are starting there. We want to let the community know that we have listened and we welcome them back starting Thursday," she said.

Seaside Grill Sunset also takes banquet requests. For more information, call (670) 237-5104 Monday to Saturday from 8am to5 pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Seaside Grill Sunset is ready to serve your favorite plain or spiced potato skins with your happy hour drink.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local drink sand food are 50% off during happy hour from 5pm to 7pm at Seaside Grill Sunset of Pacific Island Club Saipan located in San Antonio.

US employers post more jobs in June, pull back on hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers advertised more jobs in June compared with the previous month, but overall hiring fell, painting a mixed picture of the job market.

The number of jobs posted on the last day in June jumped 9.6% to 5.9 million, the Labor Department said Monday, a solid gain but still below the pre-pandemic level of about 7 million. And employers hired 6.7 million people in June, down from 7.2 million in May, a record high.

The figures suggest that restaurants, bars, retail shops, and entertainment venues—businesses that were subject to shutdown orders in April—continued to bring back workers at a healthy pace. Job openings in those industries also rose.

But outside those categories, employers remain reluctant to bring on new workers, a trend that could weigh on the economy in the coming months. Hiring slowed sharply in manufacturing, construction, and health care services in June.

The government has previously reported that the nation gained 4.8 million jobs in June. That figure, however, is a net total, while Monday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, provides gross hiring figures, without subtracting layoffs or quits.

On Friday, the government said employers added a net 1.8 million jobs, a solid gain but far below June's increase and below the 2.7 million added in May. Employers slashed 22 million positions in March and April, and so far 42% of those lost jobs have been regained.

The number of people quitting their jobs, meanwhile, rose by one-quarter to nearly 2.6 million, a huge gain that is unusual in the depths of the recession, when workers typically try to hold onto their jobs. Many workers may be reluctant to remain in jobs that they believe put their health at risk. Economists also worry that many women and men are quitting jobs to look after children, a trend that could also hold back job growth.

Dems say Trump's payroll tax break weakens Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's move to defer Social Security payroll taxes could be taking him into treacherous political territory.

His directive—aimed at boosting an economy shaken by the coronavirus pandemic—doesn't affect retirement benefits but impacts how they're paid for. Democrats seized on it Monday as a signal that Trump would cut the social safety net and break a promise he made as a candidate in 2016 not to touch Social Security and Medicare. Some nonpartisan experts also expressed concerns.

Deferral of the 6.2% payroll tax on employees for the last three months of this year could mean that up to $100 billion in payments to the Social Security Trust Fund would be delayed, according to an updated estimate by the nonpartisan Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget, which advocates for reducing government deficits.

"What it does is undercut Social Security," Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., said Monday, addressing Trump's move. The president "is defunding Social Security and breaking his promise. ... He will say, 'I'm not doing anything to touch Social Security, I'm just deferring this,' but it's as clear as my hand in front me." Larson chairs the House Ways and Means subcommittee overseeing the retirement program.

The Democratic National Committee was out with a video accusing Trump of breaking his promise to older Americans.

The White House pushed back.

"Providing a payroll tax deferral poses no risk to the Social Security Trust Fund and puts more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans as we fight to end this pandemic from China and rebuild our economy safely," spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement. "This has been a priority for President Trump and while congressional Democrats played politics the president acted for the forgotten men and women of this country as he has done so many times before."

With more than 60 million beneficiaries, Social Security is funded by a 12.4% payroll tax evenly divided between employees and employers. But there's a cloud over the program's long-term finances, and even before the pandemic, government experts estimated it would be unable to pay full benefits starting in 2035. Medicare's hospital fund is also financed by a payroll tax, but that's not affected by Trump's directive.

Social Security and Medicare are seen as politically untouchable. It's not just that seniors have clout in elections, but the two programs have longstanding inter-generational support.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
27,791.44	3,360.47	10,968.36
+357.96	+9.19	−42.63
1.30%	0.27%	0.39%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3956	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7498	Russian Ruble	72.4602
British Pound	0.7651	Indian Rupee	74.4976	Singapore Dollar	72.4602
Canadian Dollar	1.3345	Japanese Yen	106.2220	South Korean Won	1163.22
Chinese Yuan	6.8643	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1673	Swiss Franc	0.9152
Euro	0.8518	New Zealand Dollar	1.5141	Taiwan Dollar	28.9494
		Philippine Peso	48.1392	Thailand Baht	31.1330

Nation

Powerful derecho leaves path of devastation across Midwest

AP

Part of a tree that had split at the trunk lies on a road in Oak Park, Ill., while also appearing not to have landed on a car parked on the road, after a severe storm moved through the Chicago area Monday, Aug. 10, 2020.

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A rare storm packing 100 mph winds and with power similar to an inland hurricane swept across the Midwest on Monday, blowing over trees, flipping vehicles, causing widespread property damage and leaving hundreds of thousands without power as it moved through Chicago and into Indiana and Michigan.

The storm known as a derecho lasted several hours as it tore from eastern Nebraska across Iowa and parts of Wisconsin and Illinois, had the wind speed of a major hurricane, and likely caused more widespread damage than a normal tornado, said Patrick Marsh, science support chief at the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

In northern Illinois, the National Weather Service reported a wind gust of 92 mph near Dixon, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Chicago, and the storm left downed trees and power lines that blocked roadways in Chicago and its suburbs. After leaving Chicago, the most potent part of the storm system moved over north central Indiana by late afternoon.

"It ramped up pretty quick" around 7 a.m. Central time in Eastern Nebraska. I don't think anybody expected widespread winds approaching 100, 110 mph," Marsh said.

A derecho is not quite a hurricane. It has no eye and its winds come across in a line. But the damage it is likely to do spread over such a large area is more like an inland hurricane than a quick more powerful tornado, Marsh said. He compared it to a devastating Super Derecho of 2009, which was one of the strongest on record and traveled more than 1,000 miles in 24 hours, causing $500 million in damage, widespread power outages and killing a handful of people.

"This is our version of a hurricane," said Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini. He said Monday's derecho will go down as one of the strongest in recent history and be one of the nation's worst weather events of 2020.

Several people were injured and widespread property damage was reported in Marshall County in central Iowa after 100 mph winds swept through the area, said its homeland security coordinator Kim Elder.

Elder said winds blew over trees, flipped cars, downed power lines, ripped up road signs and tore roofs off buildings, some of which caught fire.

"We had quite a few people trapped in buildings and cars," Elder said, adding that the extent of injuries was unknown and no fatalities had been reported. "We're in life-saving mode right now."

Marshalltown Mayor Joel Greer declared a civil emergency, telling residents to stay home and off the streets so that first responders could respond to calls.

MidAmerican Energy said nearly 101,000 customers in the Des Moines area were without power after the storm moved through the area. Reports from spotters filed with the National Weather Service in Des Moines had winds in excess of 70 mph.

Roof damage to homes and buildings was reported in several Iowa cities, including the roof of a hockey arena in Des Moines. Across the state, large trees fell on cars and houses. Some semi-trailers flipped over or were blown off highways.

Farmers reported that some grain bins were destroyed and fields were flattened, but the extent of damage to Iowa's agriculture industry wasn't immediately clear.

MidAmerican spokeswoman Tina Hoffman said downed trees made it difficult in some locations for workers to get to power lines. In some cases, power line poles were snapped off.

"It's a lot of tree damage. Very high winds. It will be a significant effort to get through it all and get everybody back on," Hoffman said. "It was a big front that went all the way through the state."

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had "both significant and widespread damage throughout the city," said public safety spokesman Greg Buelow. Tens of thousands of people in the metro area were without power.

"We have damage to homes and businesses, including siding and roofs damaged," he said. "Trees and power lines are down throughout the entire city."

States strain to carry out Trump order on unemployment aid

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)—Governors and state labor department officials were scrambling Monday to determine whether they could implement President Donald Trump's executive order to partially extend unemployment assistance payments to millions of Americans struggling to find work in the pandemic-scarred economy.

Trump's order allocates $44 billion in federal dollars from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to boost unemployment aid for the jobless and calls on states to kick in roughly $15 billion. The Trump administration says states can pull from federal coronavirus relief funds already distributed to states earlier in the crisis.

But some states have already fully allocated that money for other critical needs.

Trump's actions on unemployment insurance and other relief aid were another expansive flexing of presidential authority that could usurp Congress's power to approve federal spending.

The order extends additional unemployment payments of $400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Congress had approved payments of $600 a week at the outset of the outbreak, but those benefits expired Aug. 1 and Congress has been unable to agree on an extension.

Many Republicans have expressed concern that a $600 weekly benefit, on top of existing state benefits, gives people an incentive to stay unemployed. The White House described the $400 level as an appropriate compromise, and top administration officials including Vice President Mike Pence on Monday urged governors in a private call to pressure Democratic lawmakers to come to a deal.

But Democrats have dismissed Trump's executive order as a hollow political gesture — not to mention legally questionable — that could ultimately leave millions of Americans without much-needed aid. Several governors said their states simply couldn't afford to chip in a quarter of the cost, even with the relief money previously approved by Congress.

That share would cost California $700 million a week, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday. The state has already allocated 75% of the money that came from an earlier congressional package.

"There is no money sitting in the piggy bank," Newsom said. "It simply does not exist."

As Democrats grumbled that Trump's executive order was unworkable, top administration officials contended that Trump was taking action while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., were sitting on the sidelines — even though the president has not taken any active role in the negotiations.

Trump also took to Twitter on Monday to ridicule Sen. Ben Sasse, calling him a "RINO" — a Republican in name only — after the Nebraska Republican called Trump's use of executive orders "unconstitutional slop."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, meanwhile, asserted that the orders were "entirely within the executive capacity of the president" and pointed to statutes she said supports the legal justification to reallocate funding in times of emergency.

Hate crime victim arrested at protest won't be prosecuted

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Black woman who became a leading activist in the Black Lives Matter movement after she was assaulted by a white supremacist three years ago won't be charged after her arrest early Monday fueled anger among protest leaders in Portland, Oregon, authorities said.

Demetria Hester, 46, was booked on suspicion of disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer during the protest that began Sunday night. The Multnomah County district attorney's office later said Hester would not be prosecuted but offered no further details.

Hester's arrest drew a sharp rebuke from national Black Lives Matter activists, who are increasingly focusing on demonstrations in Oregon's largest city.

After her release, Hester said at a news conference that she would keep protesting and joined others in announcing plans for a fundraiser to send Black mothers to Washington, D.C.

"I was born and bred to do this. This is a dream come true," Hester said, tearing up as the crowd cheered. "This is a revolution and we're getting reparations. We're taking it to D.C., baby!"

Hester and 15 other people were arrested during Portland's 73rd consecutive nights of protest. A group of about 200 demonstrators gathered at a park and then marched to the police union headquarters, where some people set fires outside the building and launched fireworks at officers.

Two officers were injured, including one who was burned on the neck when a firework exploded, police said.

Police declared a riot shortly after 10 p.m. and began arresting people, including Hester.

President Donald Trump once more seized on the protests and said on Twitter that Portland was "out of control." He urged Democratic Gov. Kate Brown to bring in the Oregon National Guard.

Protests that attracted thousands of people in July—when Trump sent U.S. agents to protect the federal courthouse—have dwindled to nightly crowds of about 200, with a small number committing acts of vandalism and violence.

Peaceful demonstrations with speeches, chanting and singing also occur in the city every day and night at various locations and don't require a police presence.

Asia

HK newspaper raided

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong authorities arrested media tycoon Jimmy Lai on Monday, broadening their enforcement of a new national security law and stoking fears of a crackdown on the semi-autonomous region's free press. Police were seen carting away boxes of what they said was evidence at Lai's pro-democracy Next Digital headquarters.

In the evening, police arrested pro-democracy activist Agnes Chow Ting on charges of inciting secession under the same law, according to tweets by fellow activist Nathan Law, who left Hong Kong for Britain soon after the law took effect. An earlier post on Chow's official Facebook page said police had arrived at her home and her lawyers were rushing to the scene, and a separate post later confirmed that she had been taken away by police.

» Tycoon detained under new law

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

The arrest of Lai, two of his sons and several company officers and the search of Next Digital marked the first time the law was used against news media. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns China's Communist Party-led government.

"Raiding a news institution is a severe attack on press freedom and should not be tolerated in a civilized society," Next Digital said in a statement. "Hong Kong's press freedom is now hanging by a thread, but our staff will remain fully committed to our duty to defend the freedom of the press."

Apple Daily's popularity stems from its celebrity news and flamboyant stories, but it is also known for investigative reporting and breaking news coverage. It has frequently urged readers to take part in pro-democracy protests.

On July 1, it condemned the new national security law on its front page, calling it "the final nail in the coffin" for the "one country, two systems" framework under which the former British colony has been able to enjoy much greater civil liberties than in mainland China since its return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The British government condemned Lai's arrest, saying authorities are using the new law to quash dissent.

"This is further evidence that the national security law is being used as a pretext to silence opposition," Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, said Monday.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a tweet that he was "deeply troubled" by reports of Lai's arrest and that it was proof the Chinese Communist Party has "eviscerated Hong Kong's freedoms and eroded the rights of its people."

The arrests of Lai and Chow came on the same day Beijing announced sanctions on 11 Americans, including six members of Congress, in retaliation for Friday's U.S. sanctions on Hong Kong and mainland officials over Hong Kong policy.

And in Chinese-claimed Taiwan, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the highest-ranking American official to visit since 1979, fueling an escalating battle between the two nations over technology, security, trade and human rights.

Unprecedented open criticism of king aired at Thai protest

PATHUM THANI, Thailand (AP)—Student leaders in Thailand delivered an unprecedented challenge to the country's constitutional monarchy on Monday, strongly criticizing the king and demanding changes to lessen what they believe is its anti-democratic nature.

The monarchy is the country's most revered institution and regarded as beyond censure. It is protected by stringent defamation laws with prison terms up to 15 years. But questioning of its privileged position has grown since the 2016 accession to the throne of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, whose much-admired father King Bhumibol Adulyadej ruled for seven decades.

At least 3,000 students had gathered Monday evening at the Thammasat University campus on the outskirts of Bangkok for the latest and biggest in a series of rallies calling for the government to step down.

But the protest's direction turned when a student went on stage, read out the 1932 proclamation that ended the absolute monarchy in what was then called Siam, and declared that in fact it lives on despite the country's nominal status as a democracy.

A number of speakers then took the stage and detailed perceived problems with Thailand's monarchy.

Airing their grievances in direct language normally expressed in whispers, the speakers criticized the king's wealth, his influence and the fact that he spends almost all his time in Germany, not Thailand.

Such open defiance of the taboos around speaking ill of the monarchy will infuriate ultra-conservatives and the military, who are unlikely to let it go without a response. Security forces in recent weeks already had been trying to intimidate students and other activists from holding demonstrations.

An announcement that a new protest would be held on Wednesday—the Queen Mother's birthday—seemed likely to provoke royalists even more.

"We shouldn't have to speak using symbols. Direct discussion is best. That's what I think, so I choose to speak directly, out of respect to my own dignity, to that of the listeners and of the monarchy as an institution," said civil rights lawyer and activist Arnon Nampha, who is currently on bail after being charged last Friday for sedition following an earlier anti-government rally.

Many in the crowd cheered, clapped and flashed three-fingered salute that has been adopted by Thailand's pro-democracy movement. Yet others in the audience appeared stunned by the content of the speeches.

Arnon had just a week earlier openly but narrowly questioned the extent of the king's powers at a much smaller protest.

The rally ended with another leader, Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul, reading out a manifesto with a list of 10 demands for reforming the institution of the monarchy.

Among them were separation of the king's personal wealth from the royal palace's vast fortune held by the Crown Property Bureau; forbidding the monarchy from playing any role in politics or endorsing any military coups; abolishing the excessive glorification of the monarchy; and investigating the deaths of critics of the monarchy.

World

AFTER BEIRUT BLAST, PUBLIC ANGER

Lebanese govt resigns

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's prime minister stepped down from his job Monday in the wake of the catastrophic explosion in Beirut that has triggered public outrage, saying he has come to the conclusion that corruption in the country is "bigger than the state."

AP

In this March. 7, 2020 file photo released by the Lebanese Government, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab, gives a speech at the Government House in Beirut, Lebanon.

The move risks opening the way to dragged-out negotiations over a new Cabinet amid urgent calls for reform. It follows a weekend of anti-government protests after the Aug. 4 explosion in Beirut's port that decimated the facility and caused widespread destruction, killing at least 160 people and injuring about 6,000 others.

In a brief televised speech after three of his ministers resigned, Prime Minister Hassan Diab said he and his government were stepping down.

"May God protect Lebanon," he said, repeating the last phrase three times. As he spoke, protesters demonstrated in the streets near parliament for a third straight day.

The moment typified Lebanon's political dilemma. Since October, there have been mass demonstrations demanding the departure of the entire sectarian-based leadership over entrenched corruption, incompetence and mismanagement.

But the ruling oligarchy has held onto power for so long—since the end of the civil war in 1990—that it is difficult to find a credible political figure untainted by connections to it.

Diab blamed corrupt politicians who preceded him for the "earthquake" that has hit Lebanon.

"They (the political class) should have been ashamed of themselves because their corruption is what has led to this disaster that had been hidden for seven years," he added.

"I have discovered that corruption is bigger than the state and that the state is paralyzed by this (ruling) clique and cannot confront it or get rid of it," said Diab, who was a professor at the American University of Beirut before he took the job.

After the catastrophe, Diab had sought to stay on for two months to organize new parliamentary elections and allow a map for reforms. But the pressure from within his own Cabinet proved to be too much. With the mass resignation, the call for early elections appears dead, so the same factions will debate on forming a new Cabinet.

Diab's government was formed after his predecessor, Saad Hariri, stepped down in October in response to the demonstrations. It took months of bickering among the leadership factions before they settled on Diab.

UN envoy says Guinea-Bissau in fragile state after elections

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. envoy for Guinea-Bissau said Monday the "political crisis and the parliamentary paralysis" following elections this year have left the impoverished West African nation in a fragile state as the United Nations prepares to end its peacebuilding mission at the end of the year.

Rosine Sori-Coulibaly told a virtual Security Council meeting that recent political developments have led to "a politically charged atmosphere with mounting mistrust" among political players.

Guinea-Bissau, a nation of of just over 1.6 million inhabitants located between Senegal to the north and Guinea to the east and south, has long been beset by instability, corruption and drug trafficking. Since it gained independence from Portugal in 1974 it has experienced four coup d'etats and more than a dozen attempted coups.

In the 2000s, Guinea-Bissau became known as a transit point for cocaine between Latin America and Europe as traffickers profited from corruption and weak law enforcement. But the drug trade has become less prominent with increasing enforcement.

In a run-off presidential election in December, former army general and prime minister Umaro Cissoko Embalo topped the poll. But the result was immediately contested by losing candidate Domingos Simoes Pereira, another former prime minister from the long-ruling PAIGC party who challenged the result in the Supreme Court.

Embalo had himself sworn in as president in late February after dismissing the former government, and despite a pending Supreme Court decision to annul the election results. He started forming a new government with support from the military, which according to published reports took control of all state institutions and the national broadcast media.

According to those reports, former PaIGC prime minister Aristides Gomes went into hiding, and several ministers, as well as PAIGC presidential candidate Simoes Pereira, left the country because of concerns for their personal safety.

Sori-Coulibaly said "mutual accusations and reported acts of intimidation against those opposing the new political" order "have created a hostile environment, making it difficult to reach a compromise for the sake of political stability and consensus building around national peacebuilding priorities."

She said that while president Embalo and his supporters are focused on consolidating power, the PAIGC party is contesting the June 29 parliamentary vote that approved the program of the new prime minister, Nuno Gomes Nabiam.

Good Housekeeping

Make the most of basil, summer's favorite herb

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

The garden gods have been good to me so far this summer, even if the weather has been something of a nightmare for those of us without central air.

Despite a long string of 90-degree days and not enough rain, my basil is thriving. Thanks to soft and tasty leaves at the ready, pesto is making regular appearances on my table. Being stuck at home with an office overlooking my garden has undoubtedly helped because it is hard not to notice when my plants need a drink.

Basil loves the sun and a well-drained spot in the garden, but it also grows well in a pot on a bright, sunny window sill. It's a quick harvest, with leaves ready for picking in as little as three or four weeks.

If you don't grow the fragrant green herb, you can find it easily enough at farmers markets or the grocery store, both in plant form for easy snipping and in bunches. Basil has long been considered the "king of herbs" because it is so flavorful and versatile.

Native to parts of Asia and Africa, it's grown all over the world and used in a variety of cuisines, although the sweet variety (Ocimum bacilicum) and its close cousin Genovese basil are most associated with Italian and Mediterranean cooking.

Basil plays a supporting role in any number of pasta dishes, and it pairs so wonderfully with tomatoes that it is a key player not just in caprese salad and classic marinara sauce but also on a pizza margherita as a salute to the green stripe in Italy's flag.

It was considered a token of love in Italian folklore. If a man accepted a sprig of sweet basil from a woman, it was believed that he'd fall helplessly in love with her.

Thai basil, conversely, has a licorice flavor, making it a go-to choice for Asian dishes. Another popular variety, lemon basil, has a noticeable citrus flavor that lends itself to seafood. Purple basil, in addition to adding a beautiful pop of color to dishes, has a slightly spicy flavor and is good in salads or when steeped in vinegar.

Basil needs some TLC when it is brought home from the market or taken inside from the garden. It does a lot better stored like a bouquet of flowers in a glass of water on the counter at room temperature. But the leaves also can be wrapped in paper towels, placed in a plastic bag and slipped into the fridge. Just know they keep only for a day or so when chilled.

If you've got it in spades, consider freezing it. You'll have to blanch the leaves first to preserve its beautiful bright green color and then pat them dry with a dish cloth or paper towel. Place them in a freezer-safe container, separated into layers with wax or parchment paper. Or puree fresh basil leaves with a little olive oil (1 tablespoon per 1 cup of basil) and freeze the mixture in an ice cube tray.

But that's for a later day. To use the basil immediately, we've got some tasty ideas.

Making pesto is a no-brainer. But don't be content to simply toss the garlicky sauce made with pine nuts and olive oil with pasta. Spread it on sandwiches, dollop it on top of pizza, toss it with steamed or grilled vegetables, or whisk it with mayo into chicken, egg or tuna salad. You also can marry pesto with butter as an herby topping for corn on the cob.

If you're looking for a basil-heavy main dish without ties to Italy, consider a spicy stir-fry. Thai chicken basil comes together in less time than it takes to order takeout. Thai chilies can make your palate burn, but spicy food actually helps to cool you off when it is hot because it makes you sweat.

And for dessert, nothing shouts summer like a cool and creamy lime pie. Take it to the next level by adding some basil to the filling. Sweet basil has a hint of mint that pairs exceptionally well with citrus, and everyone loves a bite of something sweet to close out the day.

(GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS)
Post-Gazette food writer Gretchen McKay has had a lot of success with basil in her garden this year.

You might not be able to take that trip to Key West this year for obvious reasons, or anywhere else where there's sand and water, but you can still eat like you did.

CORN ON THE COB WITH BASIL PESTO BUTTER

PG tested

Pesto is super easy to make, and it can dress up so many more things than a plate of pasta. For a spectacular summer taste, we suggest mixing it with softened butter to use as a spread for corn on the cob.

Pesto butter also is wonderful on grilled meats or fish, potatoes or on toasted bread. The sky's the limit.

For pesto

2 cups packed basil leaves

2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts

1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/4 cup olive oil, or more to taste

Zest and juice of 1 lemon

Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes

Kosher salt

For corn

6 ears freshly shucked corn

4 tablespoons softened butter

Grated Parmesan cheese, for garnish, optional

Make pesto: In blender or food processor, combine all ingredients except salt and pulse until smooth but still a bit chunky, about 1 minute. Add a little more olive oil if it seems too thick. Taste and add salt as needed.

If not using right away, store refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks. You also freeze the pesto in ice cube trays; add a drop of olive oil to the top of each cube and cover tightly with plastic wrap.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add corn and cook 5 minutes.

While corn is cooking, mix softened butter with 2 tablespoons pesto.

Brush (or slather) pesto butter on top of cooked corned. If desired, sprinkle buttered ears with grated Parmesan. Serve immediately.

Serves 3 to 6.

■ Gretchen McKay

BASIL-KISSED LIME PIE

PG tested

This five-ingredient pie starts with a homemade graham cracker crust. But you could swap out the graham crackers for 1 1/2 cups of crushed chocolate wafers. Or use a store-bought crust.

I used a 10-inch pan so the filling didn't quite come to the top edge (a 9-inch pan is ideal), but it allowed for more and slightly thinner slices. You can either pipe whipped cream around the perimeter of the pie or cover the pie completely with it so you get whipped cream with every bite.

For crust

10 full sheets of graham crackers

5 tablespoons melted unsalted butter

1/3 cup sugar

For filling

3 teaspoons grated lime zest

3 egg yolks

1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk

2/3 cup freshly squeezed lime juice, from about 6 limes

1/4 cup thinly sliced basil (about 12 large leaves)

1 cup heavy or whipping cream chilled, for garnish

Lime slices, for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Make crust: Finely grind graham crackers in a food processor or in a large plastic zip-close bag using a rolling pin. You should get about 11/2 cups of crumbs.

Mix the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and sugar together with a rubber spatula in a medium bowl until well combined. It will be coarse and sandy. Press the crust mixture into the bottom of a pie pan dish and slightly up the sides.

Bake crust for 8 minutes; remove and allow to cool slightly.

Prepare filling: Whisk the lime zest and egg yolks together in a medium bowl until creamy and well blended. Whisk in the sweetened condensed milk, then the lime juice. Gently fold in basil.

Bake pie until the center is set but still jiggles a little, about 15 to 17 minutes. Cool to room temperature then chill in the fridge for at least 3 hours.

When ready to serve, whip heavy or whipping cream with a mixer or in the bowl of a stand mixer outfitted with a whisk until stiff peaks form. Spoon whipped cream into a plastic zip-close bag, and snip off a corner. Pipe the whipped cream on the edges of the pie, zigzag it evenly across the top or simply serve it alongside the pie in a pretty bowl.

If you like, you also can garnish the pie with thin lime slices.

Serves 6 to 8.

■ Gretchen McKay

SPICY THAI CHICKEN BASIL

PG tested

Stir-fries are good any time of year because they come together quickly after you chop all the ingredients. They make even more sense in summer because then you don't have to turn on your oven and heat up the kitchen. This one pairs chicken and green beans in a rich and spicy sauce punctuated with lots of sliced basil.

Authentic Thai basil chicken, not surprisingly, calls for Thai basil, a variety that has a slightly spicy, anise-like flavor. I substituted Italian basil because that's what's growing in my garden. It was still delicious.

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

3 tablespoons oyster sauce

2 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons fish sauce

3 tablespoons sugar

1 red bell pepper, chopped

8 ounces green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces

1/2 small yellow onion or 2 shallots, cut into thin slices

4 cloves garlic, minced

3 fresh red Thai chilies, deseeded and finely chopped, or or 1 teaspoon dried red-pepper flakes

11/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, coarsely chopped

11/2 to 2 cups lightly packed basil leaves

Jasmine rice, to serve

Heat the oil in a wok or heavy, high-walled skillet over high heat. As the wok is heating up, whisk together the oyster sauce, soy sauce, fish sauce and sugar until well-combined. Set aside.

Add the bell pepper and green beans to the hot wok. Stir-fry for 1 minute. Stir in the onion, garlic and chilies. Cook until fragrant, about 1 more minute.

Add in the chicken and stir-fry, breaking apart as you go, until beginning to brown, about 2 minutes.

Pour in the prepared sauce. Continue to cook until the sauce begins to glaze onto the meat, about 1 to 2 more minutes.

Stir in the Thai basil leaves and cook until the chicken is completely cooked through, the basil is wilted, and the liquid has mostly evaporated. Serve warm with rice. Taste and add more chili flakes if it is not adequately spicy.

Serves 4.

■ Adapted from hostthetoast.com

Life & Style

Treasure-hunter finds 3,000-year-old hoard in Scotland

AP
This undated photo issued by Crown Office Communications shows objects found by metal detectorist Mariusz Stepien in the Scottish Borders.

LONDON (AP)—An amateur treasure-hunter has uncovered one of the most significant Bronze Age hoards ever found in Scotland, including jewelry and a 3,000-year-old sword, authorities said Monday.

Metal detectorist Mariusz Stepien said he was "shaking with happiness" when he made the discovery in June, in a field near the village of Peebles, about 22 miles (36 kilometers) south of Edinburgh.

"I thought I've never seen anything like this before and felt from the very beginning that this might be something spectacular and I've just discovered a big part of Scottish history," he said.

Stepien and his friends contacted the Scottish government's Treasure Trove unit and camped in the field for 22 days as archaeologists uncovered the assemblage of artifacts. These included a complete horse harness, buckles, rings, ornaments, a sword still in its scabbard and axle caps from a chariot.

They, and the dirt around them, are now at the National Museums Collection Center in Edinburgh.

Emily Freeman, head of the Treasure Trove Unit, said it was a "nationally significant find." It is only the second Bronze Age hoard ever excavated in Scotland.

"It was an amazing opportunity for us to not only recover bronze artifacts, but organic material as well," she said. "There is still a lot of work to be done to assess the artifacts and understand why they were deposited."

Antonio Banderas says he's tested positive for coronavirus

NEW YORK (AP)—Antonio Banderas says he's tested positive for COVID-19 and is celebrating his 60th birthday in quarantine.

The Spanish actor announced his positive test in a post Monday on Instagram. Banderas said he would spend his time in isolation reading, writing and "making plans to begin to give meaning to my 60th year to which I arrive full of enthusiasm."

Banderas

"I would like to add that I am relatively well, just a little more tired than usual and hoping to recover as soon as possible following medical instructions that I hope will allow me to overcome the infection that I and so many people in the world are suffering from," wrote Banderas.

A spokeperson for Banderas didn't immediate respond to messages Monday.

Earlier this year, Banderas was nominated for the Academy Award for best actor for his performance in Pedro Almodóvar's "Pain & Glory."

Jolie seeks removal of private judge in Pitt divorce case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie asked Monday that the private judge overseeing her divorce from Brad Pitt be disqualified from the case because of insufficient disclosures of his business relationships with one of Pitt's attorneys.

In a filing in Los Angeles Superior Court, Jolie argues that Judge John W. Ouderkirk should be taken off the divorce case that she filed in 2016 because he was too late and not forthcoming enough about other cases he was hired for involving Pitt attorney Anne C. Kiley.

Jolie

It says that during the Jolie-Pitt proceedings Ouderkirk has "failed to disclose the cases that demonstrated the current, ongoing, repeat-customer relationship between the judge and Respondent's counsel."

It goes on to say that Pitt's attorney "actively advocated for Judge Ouderkirk's financial interests in moving—over the opposing party's opposition—to have his appointment (and his ability to continue to receive fees) extended in a high profile case."

An email to Kiley and Pitt's lead attorney Lance Spiegel seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Chris Pratt, Katherine Schwarzenegger greet baby daughter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Pratt and Katherine Schwarzenegger say they are "beyond thrilled" and "extremely blessed" after she gave birth to their first child together.

The 41-year-old "Avengers" actor and the 30-year-old children's book author announced the birth of daughter Lyla Maria Schwarzenegger Pratt in a joint post on their Instagram accounts Monday.

The post included a photo of the hands of both parents and child and a pair of Bible verses; including Psalms 126:3: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Pratt also has a 7-year-old son with his first wife, Anna Faris.

The baby is the granddaughter of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver.

Fire engulfs cooking show star Rachael Ray's home

NEW YORK (AP)—A massive fire engulfed cooking show star Rachael Ray's New York home, authorities said.

As many as 16 local fire departments responded to the fire at Ray's home in Lake Luzerne, New York, which started around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, according to Brian LaFlure, fire coordinator for the Warren County Office of Emergency Services.

Photos of the house fire show flames bursting through the roof and long plumes of smoke extending into the sky. No one in Ray's household or from the responding firefighters were injured, LaFlure said.

"Thank you to our local first responders for being kind and gracious and saving what they could of our home," Ray posted on Twitter on Monday. "These are the days we all have to be grateful for what we have, not what we've lost."

Ray's representative Charlie Dougiello said in a statement that the extent of the damage to the home was not yet clear.

The home is located at the end of a private drive in a rural area that has no fire hydrants, so firefighters had to pump water from a nearby pond and transport it with tankers to extinguish the flames, LaFlure said.

Poolside overexposure gets disapproval of grandparents

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our 60s and have a swimming pool that our kids and grandkids like to visit. Our issue is that our granddaughter wears a bathing suit that shows her bum. It isn't a thong, but close to it.

She's 16 and starting her junior year of high school this year. It makes my husband and me uncomfortable, and we have told my daughter as much. Is this one of those situations where we either accept it or don't allow her to swim with such a suit?

I love my granddaughter and will put up with the way it makes us feel if that is where the line is drawn, but it is hard for us to understand. When she brings her friends, they dress the same way. What do you advise?

UNCOMFORTABLE GRANDPARENTS

DEAR GRANDPARENTS: Because you and your spouse are uncomfortable with the amount of exposure your granddaughter and her friends display when they come to swim, you have the right to tell them to wear something less revealing. It's your pool, and the bottom line is it's your privilege to set the rules. Be prepared, however, for your granddaughter to not want to use your pool as often in the future.

DEAR ABBY: My father is 87 and has stage 4 cancer. For years he has lied about being a hospital corpsman in the Navy during the Korean War. My parents live in a retirement community, and he talks about being in the war while wearing a Navy baseball cap. Dad was in the Naval Reserve (that we know of) but never saw combat.

Veterans' groups are always bringing him quilts, food, etc. My mom is horrified and doesn't know what to say when he goes on a rant about having been hit by shrapnel while pulling a fellow naval guy out of a burning building. He will pass away soon, and the veterans' groups will be giving Mom a flag he doesn't deserve. Mom doesn't know what to do. Should we just ignore the antics or say something? Please help.

UNCERTAIN IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: What your father has been doing is called "stolen valor" or "stolen honor," and it is seriously frowned upon by people who have actually earned it. It is a form of fraud. However, anyone who has served in the military and been honorably discharged is entitled to be given a flag when he or she is buried. It will be folded and presented to your mother.

As to the gifts he is receiving from the veterans' groups, suggest that because your father is now so close to the end, they be given to other vets who can use them.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a very sweet girl for the last four months, and I'm starting to have serious feelings for her. My children really like her, but she sat me down the other night and told me she's transgender. I'm crushed, and I don't know what to do. This blows my mind; please give me any guidance. I care a lot about this person, and I just want to cry.

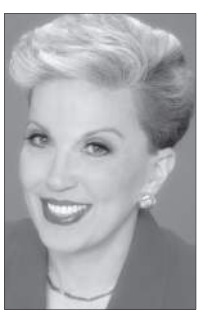
CRUSHED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CRUSHED: You say you are starting to have serious feelings for this girl, who is not only sweet, but also HONEST. If you are worried what others might think if they find out she wasn't assigned female at birth, then she's not the girl for you. Because she has laid all her cards on the table, take this as an opportunity to have a series of frank conversations with her about what challenges might lie ahead for the both of you if this romance progresses.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

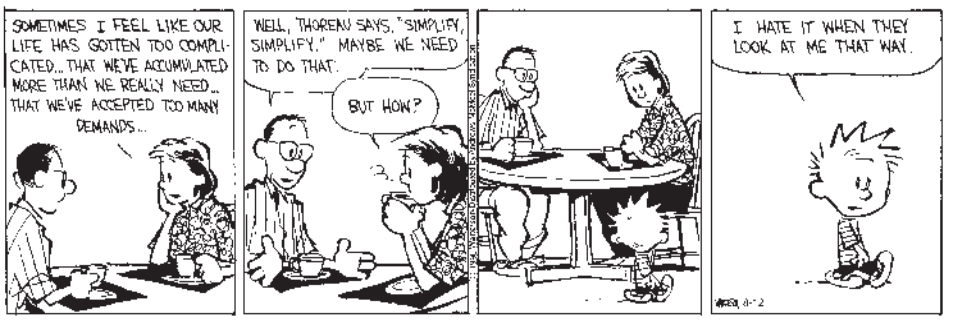


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

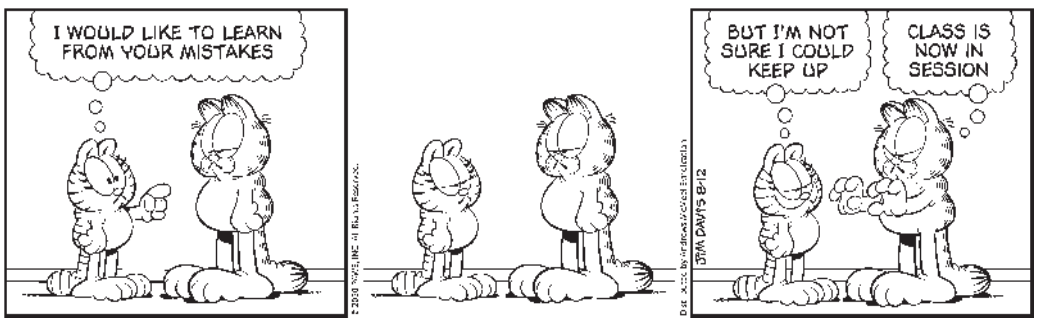
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE OUR LIFE HAS GOTTEN TOO COMPLICATED... THAT WE'VE ACCUMULATED MORE THAN WE REALLY NEED... THAT WE'VE ACCEPTED TOO MANY DEMANDS...
WELL, THOREAU SAYS, "SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY." MAYBE WE NEED TO DO THAT.
BUT HOW?
I HATE IT WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME THAT WAY.

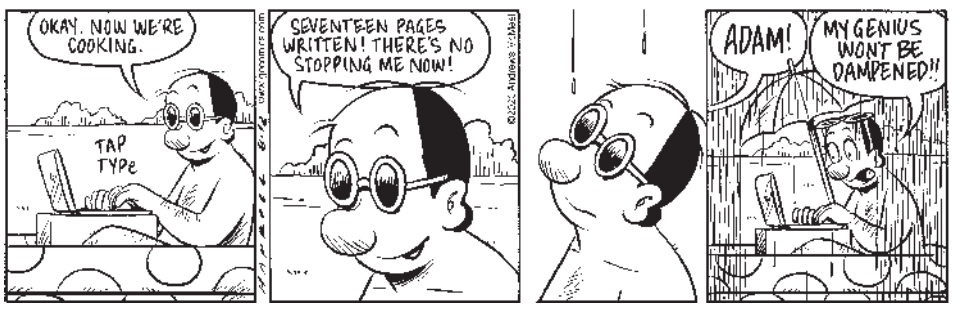
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



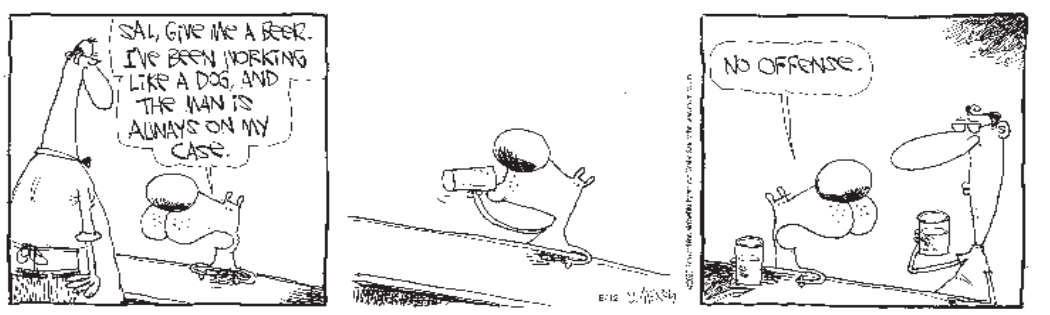
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "A mouse!"
4 "Pygmalion" monogram
7 IRS enforcer
8 Inclines
10 "— were the days!"
11 Freeway entrance
13 Clumsy person's nickname
16 Get older
17 Refers to
18 Football filler
19 Lights-out tune
20 Rice-shaped pasta
21 Dance moves
23 Make happen
25 James of "The Godfather"
26 Equitable
27 Bat wood
28 Speaks unclearly
30 P followers
33 Fluffy toast spread
36 Not digital, as a watch
37 Sudden attacks
38 Foolish
39 Big fair, for short
40 Summer in Paris
41 Insult, slangily

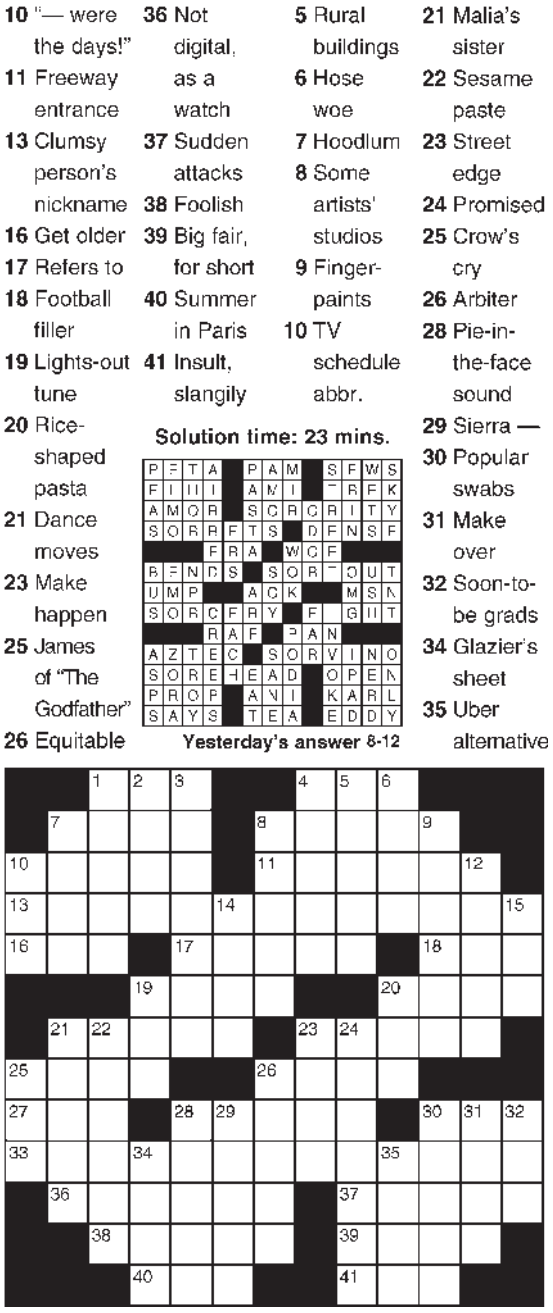
DOWN

1 Overact
2 Right on the map
3 Patella
4 Bottled spirit?
5 Rural buildings
6 Hose woe
7 Hoodlum
8 Some artists' studios
9 Finger-paints
10 TV schedule abbr.
12 Nobel, for one
14 Tears
15 Hit show letters
19 Sawbuck
20 "Shoo!"
21 Malia's sister
22 Sesame paste
23 Street edge
24 Promised
25 Crow's cry
26 Arbiter
28 Pie-in-the-face sound
29 Sierra —
30 Popular swabs
31 Make over
32 Soon-to-be grads
34 Glazier's sheet
35 Uber alternative

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	E	T	A		P	A	M		S	F	W	S
F	I	I	I		A	M	I		R	F	K	
A	M	O	R		S	C	R	C	A	I	T	Y
S	O	R	R	F	T	S		D	F	N	S	F
			F	R	A		W	C	F			
B	E	N	D	S		S	O	R	E	O	U	T
U	M	P			A	C	K			M	S	N
S	O	R	C	F	R	Y		F		G	I	T
			R	A	F		P	A	N			
A	Z	T	E	C		S	O	R	V	I	N	O
S	O	R	E	H	E	A	D		O	P	E	N
P	R	O	P		A	N	I		K	A	R	L
S	A	Y	S		T	E	A		E	D	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Imani Hakim, 27; Cara Delevingne, 28; Pete Sampras, 49; Peter Krause, 55.

Happy Birthday: Stop, look and listen. Take nothing for granted, and don't let others speak on your behalf. A steady pace will maintain stability and help you avoid risky changes. Generosity is best allocated thoughtfully and with care. Look out for yourself before you take on other people's burdens. Distance yourself from those who create divisiveness and chaos. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 24, 27, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Clues from your past will help when looking for new ways to use your skills. Keeping up with the times and being vocal about how you see things unfolding will help you set the standard as you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change of heart will lead to an unexpected turn of events brought on by someone close to you. Don't leave anything to chance. Get the lowdown regarding how other people feel, and you'll discover how best to move forward. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make up your mind. Inconsistency will be your downfall. Decisions shouldn't be based on emotions or trying to please others. Do what's best for you, and avoid responsibilities and burdens that don't belong to you. Take care of time-sensitive issues. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Concentrate on what you can do to save, cut corners and build a stable future. A unique idea is worth looking at, but do not get involved in a joint venture. Go it alone or take a pass. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Your work and personal life will face off if you haven't allocated equal time to ensure you take care of all your responsibilities. Getting organized will help you maintain the balance required to keep the peace and avoid disappointment. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Taking a look at an old problem from a different angle will help you see alternative ways to bring about positive change. Don't be daunted by someone offering negative input or criticism. Choose to be upbeat and enthusiastic. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Adapt if it helps you keep the peace. Making an effort to get along will give you leverage when you need something in return. Being helpful and accommodating aren't signs of weakness; they're signs that you are responsible and mature. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You may not agree with everything you hear, but take the information that resonates with you, and it will help you find a new way to put your skills to good use. Commit wholeheartedly to whatever path you choose to follow. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A change someone wants you to make will be overrated. Find out what's entailed before you sign up or commit to something you end up regretting. Utilize your time to learn and incorporate what you discover into your daily routine. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can't please everyone. Take a step back, and consider what you want. Offer incentives that will encourage others to get on board and help you with your plans. Making alterations at home that add to your comfort and entertainment are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* If you want something done right, do it yourself. Someone will put pressure on you to make changes you don't want to make. Channel your energy into a job that will benefit you, not someone else. Avoid emotional power plays. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't ignore an opportunity to make a professional or financial move. Altering the way you live and work will not please someone close to you. Look for a creative way to make amends and gain support to move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, sensitive and passionate. You are determined and witty.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		9				5		
	4		5		1		9	
		5				4		
	7		3		8		1	5
				6				
	1	8	2	5	9	7	4	
		7				3		
		1				6		
			8	7	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	9	4	1	6	5	3	7	2
6	5	7	4	3	2	8	1	9
1	3	2	8	9	7	5	4	6
9	6	5	2	7	3	1	8	4
7	4	3	9	8	1	6	2	5
2	1	8	5	4	6	9	3	7
4	7	6	3	1	9	2	5	8
3	2	9	7	5	8	4	6	1
5	8	1	6	2	4	7	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CHEESECAKE? **Solution: 8 letters**

N	H	M	S	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	T	E	S	S
U	O	A	A	E	K	R	O	Y	W	E	N	E	E	T
T	N	T	H	N	L	E	M	O	N	I	C	O	I	O
E	E	C	O	E	G	Y	P	P	T	I	T	Y	K	R
L	Y	H	N	R	G	O	T	A	P	N	U	R	O	E
L	R	A	I	E	T	N	L	S	A	S	R	R	O	T
A	R	T	B	C	Z	E	A	R	Y	U	T	E	C	T
E	E	T	T	A	G	O	R	R	N	G	L	B	H	U
E	H	O	S	K	K	U	R	S	O	A	E	W	I	B
F	C	C	U	E	C	E	M	F	Y	R	G	A	C	T
F	K	I	R	K	B	E	D	E	R	R	S	R	A	U
O	C	R	C	E	T	A	R	T	E	U	T	T	G	N
N	A	A	U	A	A	Ⓢ	Ⓜ	Ⓐ	Ⓙ	K	I	S	O	A
A	L	L	N	L	E	M	A	R	A	C	A	T	A	E
B	B	A	V	A	R	I	A	N	I	K	P	M	U	P

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Baked, Banoffee, Bavarian, Black Cherry, Black Currant, Blueberry, Cake, Caramel, Chicago, Cookies, Crackers, Cream, Crust, Frozen, Fruit, Gelatine, Honey, Jams, Layers, Lemon, Lychee, Make, Mango, Matcha, New York, Nutella, Orange, Pastry, Peanut Butter, Pumpkin, Ricotta, Smetana, Spices, Store, Strawberry, Styles, Sugar, Tart, Torte, Turtle

Yesterday's Answer: Prove

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

NBA will have play-in series in West

FLORIDA (AP)—It's now official: There will be a play-in series to determine the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Memphis' 108-99 loss to Toronto on Sunday means that it's no longer possible for more than a four-game difference in the standings between the eighth- and ninth-place finishers in the West when the seeding game schedule ends later this week.

By the rules the NBA set for this season's restart, there had to be more than a four-game cushion for the No. 8 team to get the final playoff spot outright. The league decided to add the play-in series option in an abundance of fairness, since about 14% of the regular season schedule was eliminated because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Memphis remains alone in eighth place, even after Sunday's loss. No team has clinched a spot in the play-in series; the Grizzlies could have assured themselves of no worse than that had they beaten the Raptors on Sunday.

Game 1 of the play-in series will be Saturday, with Game 2—if necessary —the following day, Aug. 16. To advance and face the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round, the eighth-place team will have to win one of the two games and the ninth-place finisher would have to go 2-0.

ABC will air Game 1 of the play-in series on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. EDT. Game 2, if necessary, would be Aug. 16 at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN.

There will be no play-in series in the Eastern Conference; Brooklyn and Orlando have secured what were the last two available spots on that bracket, with Washington -- the only other team that came to Disney with a chance of qualifying in the East—already eliminated.

The playoffs begin Monday, Aug. 17.

"Obviously, that's what everybody's goal is," New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said Sunday.

The matchup for the play-in will be known no later than Thursday. There are four seeding games on Friday, the last day of the regular season, though none of them will have any bearing on the West matchup.

Only two of the eight NBA first-round matchups are known: Brooklyn clinched the No. 7 spot in the East by beating the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday night, and a first-round series against the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors.

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Antonius Cleveland (3) tries to shoot over Utah Jazz's Miye Oni during the first half of an NBA game Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

That means Milwaukee, the East's No. 1 seed and the team with the best overall record in the NBA, will meet the eighth-seeded Orlando Magic in another first-round series.

Heat 114, Pacers 92

Jimmy Butler returned to the Miami lineup and everything started clicking again for the Heat.

Butler returned from a foot injury and scored 19 points, Derrick Jones scored 18 off the Miami bench and the Heat kept T.J. Warren largely in check on the way to a win over the Indiana Pacers.

Butler also had 11 rebounds, five assists and four steals.

"He was dictating the game," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The ball was going through him. That's the definition of a go-to player."

Tyler Herro scored 17 while Duncan Robinson and Jae Crowder each added 14 for Miami, which snapped a two-game slide. The Heat took control for good in the third quarter, blowing open what was a tie game with a 35-17 run.

Goran Dragic scored 11 and Bam Adebayo added 10 for Miami.

Warren scored 12 for Indiana on 5 for 14 shooting in 29 minutes. He came into Monday averaging a bubble-leading 34.8 points per game on 61% shooting from the field, 56% from 3-point range.

Lakers 124, Nuggets 121

Kyle Kuzma had done this so many times before—enough so that his teammates identified him as their go-to if they needed a game-winner.

They had 4.5 seconds to win this game. LeBron James inbounded the ball and with a play to get him open, Kuzma stepped behind the three-point line to take an open shot. It swished through with 0.4 seconds left and Kuzma bounced back down the court as the Denver Nuggets took a time out.

On the virtual fan board behind the Lakers bench, Kuzma's mother, Karri, grinned and clapped.

The Lakers (52-18) snapped a three-game losing streak in the NBA's bubble.

Suns 128, Thunder 101

Devin Booker scored 35 points, and the Phoenix Suns rolled past the short-handed Oklahoma City Thunder to improve to 6-0 in the restart and improve their playoff chances.

The Suns have surged in the Western Conference standings. They entered the day just 1 1/2 games behind eighth-place Memphis and a game behind ninth-place Portland in the race to qualify for a spot in the play-in series.

Oklahoma City was without four of its top five scorers. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (right calf bruise), Danilo Gallinari (left ankle), Dennis Schroder (birth of child) and Steven Adams (bruised left leg) sat out. Reserve center Nerlens Noel (right ankle; sprain) also did not play.

Rookie Darius Bazley had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

Raptors 114, Bucks 106

Chris Boucher scored a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help the Raptors defeat the Bucks.

Though the meeting featured the top two teams in the Eastern Conference standings, both teams were missing key players.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP, missed the game after undergoing oral surgery. Bucks coach Mike Budehnolzer said Monday it was uncertain whether Antetokounmpo would play in the team's final two seeding games Tuesday against the Washington Wizards and Thursday against the Memphis Grizzlies.

For Toronto, Kyle Lowry sat out with a sore lower back, Serge Ibaka missed the game with a bruised right knee and Fred Van Vleet was out with a hyperextended right knee.

Mavericks 122, Jazz 114

The short-handed Mavericks rallied from a 22-point deficit in the second half to stun the Jazz.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led the Mavericks with 27 points and Seth Curry added 22. Boban Majanovic had 20 points and nine rebounds. It was the biggest comeback for the Mavericks since February 2016 and the win means Dallas still has a slim shot at earning the No. 5 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Dallas won despite playing without stars Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis, who were both resting because of nagging injuries.

Utah was led by Jordan Clarkson, who scored 18 points.

Koepka, DeChambeau still favored; Woods behind

SAN FRANCISCO—Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau remain U.S. Open betting co-favorites

With a thrilling finish to the PGA Championship officially in the books, it's time to shift the major spotlight back east.

Winged Foot will host the rescheduled U.S. Open in a little more than a month, as the all-exempt field continues to take shape. It'll be the sixth time the New York course hosts the U.S. Open, and the first since 2006.

While Brooks Koepka couldn't back up his talk during the final round at TPC Harding Park, he remains one of the betting co-favorites for next month alongside Bryson DeChambeau according to oddsmakers at the Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook. Koepka went back-to-back at the U.S. Open in 2017 and 2018 before finishing second last year at Pebble Beach, while DeChambeau's T-4 finish Sunday was his first top-10 result in a major.

Fresh off his breakthrough win at Harding Park, Collin Morikawa saw his odds drop from 30/1 to 20/1 as he joined the short list of pre-tournament favorites. Tiger Woods' odds have gone the other way, drifting from 20/1 to 30/1, while Phil Mickelson is listed at 150/1 to complete the final leg of the career Grand Slam on a course where he let it get away 14 years ago.

Rahm regains top ranking

After a one-week demotion, Jon Rahm is back to the top spot in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Rahm reached world No. 1 for the first time in his career last month with his victory at the Memorial, only to drop back to No. 2 when Justin Thomas captured the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational. But Rahm's T-13 finish at the PGA Championship was enough to edge him back in front of Thomas, who tied for 37th. The margin remains thin: Rahm's new point average is 8.78, while Thomas' is 8.77.

Morikawa jumped seven spots from No. 12 to No. 5 after a two-shot victory at TPC Harding Park. Runner-up Paul Casey moved up nine spots to No. 19 in the world, while a T-2 finish helped Dustin Johnson stay one spot ahead of Morikawa at No. 4. Jason Day (T-4) went from No. 42 to No. 32 after his fourth top-10 finish in as many starts, and the same result helped Scottie Scheffler move from No. 59 to No. 46.

Andy Sullivan, who won the English Championship on the European Tour, moved 57 spots to 91st.

With Rahm now ahead of Thomas, the new Top 5 includes Rory McIlroy at No. 3 followed by Johnson and Morikawa. Webb Simpson dropped two spots to No. 6, with Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau, Patrick Reed and Adam Scott rounding out the Top 10. ***(AP/NBC)***

Angels snap Athletics' winning streak

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the eighth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied from an early five-run deficit to snap Oakland's nine-game winning streak with a 10-9 victory Monday night.

Trout's solo drive off Yusmeiro Petit (1-1) in the eighth helped the Angels stop a three-game skid. It was the 20th multi-homer game of Trout's career, which tied Tim Salmon and Vladimir Guerrero for the franchise record.

Slumping newcomer Anthony Rendon also homered for the Angels.

Los Angeles trailed 9-4 in the fourth when Trout began the rally with a two-run drive into the Angels' bullpen in left field. Shohei Ohtani had an RBI double in the inning to bring them to 9-7 and then tied it with a two-run homer to center in the sixth.

The Angels' bullpen, which has struggled this season, allowed only two hits over the final five innings.

Noe Ramirez, Keynan Middleton, Felix Pena (1-0) and Ty Buttrey held Oakland scoreless. Buttrey earned his second save.

Matt Chapman homered twice and tied a career high with six RBI for AL West-leading Oakland.

After the Angels got three runs in the first, Chapman put Oakland on the board as he lined Julio Teheran's fastball over the wall in left-center leading off the second. Chapman gave Oakland a 5-3 lead an inning later with a two-run drive to center for the fifth multi-homer game of his career.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani, right, is safe at second base as Oakland Athletics' Sheldon Neuse throws home during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, in Anaheim, Calif.

Padres 2, Dodgers 1

Eric Hosmer singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the sixth inning, and the San Diego Padres beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Joc Pederson bobbled the ball on Hosmer's hit to left and couldn't attempt a throw as Trent Grisham scored from second after Dustin May (1-1) walked him, giving the Padres a 2-1 lead.

Austin Hedges homered with two outs in the fifth to tie it at 1. It was Hedges' third hit and first homer of the season and only the second home run given up by May.

Astros 6, Giants 4

Lance McCullers Jr. pitched no-hit ball into the seventh inning, Michael Brantley and Carlos Correa drove in two runs each and Houston snapped a five-game skid.

McCullers (2-1) bounced back from one of the worst performances of his career with a gem, allowing one hit and striking out five in seven scoreless innings. The 26-year-old tied a career high by allowing eight runs in just 3 2/3 innings of a 14-7 loss at Arizona his last time out.

His only hit allowed Monday came when Donovan Solano extended his MLB-best hitting streak to 15 games with a double in the seventh.

Nationals 16, Mets 4

Asdrubal Cabrera went 4 for 4 with two homers, two doubles and five RBI, tormenting his former team again as Washington routed New York.

Juan Soto and Trea Turner homered in the third inning for the Nationals, who scored just 11 runs in their previous five games.

Cabrera, who played in 374 games for the Mets from 2016-18, became the first player to go 4 for 4 with four extra-base hits against a former team since Johnny Cooney of the Brooklyn Dodgers did it versus the Boston Bees in 1937, according to STATS. Cabrera is batting .452 with three homers and 11 RBI in eight games against New York since Washington signed him last August.

Phillies 13, Braves 8

Didi Gregorius hit a grand slam, Bryce Harper blasted a three-run shot and Philadelphia got Aaron Nola his first win in nearly a year.

Nola (1-1) allowed one run, two hits and struck out 10 in eight innings. The ace right-hander was 0-5 in nine starts since his last win at Boston on August 20, 2019.

Roman Quinn, Jean Segura and J.T. Realmuto added solo shots for Philadelphia.

Rays 8, Red Sox 7

Kevin Kiermaier hit a tie-breaking, two-run double in the seventh inning, Manuel Margot had four hits and Tampa Bay beat Boston.

Kiermaier's opposite-field line drive off reliever Jeffrey Springs (0-1) rolled all the way to the wall in left-center field. Yoshi Tsutsugo and Margot scored after both singled to start the inning. Kiermaier had three RBI.

Tampa Bay has won four of five after taking three of four against the New York Yankees at home prior to this season-high 10-game road trip.

Twins 4, Brewers 2

Eddie Rosario hit a grand slam, Randy Dobnak pitched five strong innings and Minnesota ended a four-game skid.

Dobnak (3-1) struck out three, allowed four hits, walked one and retired his last eight batters to continue his hot start to the season.

Keston Hiura homered and Orlando Arcia hit an RBI double for the Brewers.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 8

Kole Calhoun hit a leadoff homer and a two-run double to lead Arizona's 18-hit outburst in Colorado.

David Peralta and Ketel Marte got four hits each for the Diamondbacks. Alex Young (1-0) worked two innings of relief and Archie Bradley earned his fourth save.

Rockies outfielder Charlie Blackmon had four singles to extend his hitting streak to 14 games. He has 10 multi-hit games in that stretch, including the last five to raise his batting average to .484, tops in baseball.

Tigers 5, White Sox 1

JaCoby Jones hit an inside-the-park home run and Detroit breezed past Chicago for its fourth straight victory.

Niko Goodrum homered and had four hits for the Tigers, who handed the White Sox their fifth loss in six games. It wasn't all good news for Detroit, though. First baseman C.J. Cron exited with a left knee injury.

White Sox slugger Jose Abreu came up limping after grounding out in the eighth and left the game as well.

Mariners 10, Rangers 2

Kyle Seager hit a grand slam, Kyle Lewis and Dylan Moore also homered and Seattle won its first game at the new Texas ballpark, snapping the Rangers' three-game winning streak.

Lewis put the Mariners up 4-2 with a three-run shot in the fifth inning off Kyle Gibson (0-2). Seager added his fifth career slam an inning later.

Justin Dunn (1-1) limited Texas to two runs over six innings for his first big league victory.

With the retractable roof opened at Globe Life Field during a game for the first time, the Mariners' three homers were only one fewer than opponents had hit overall in the first eight games.

Orlando, Portland vie for MLS title like no other

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—In a year like no other, this will be a championship like no other.

Orlando City and Portland will meet in the MLS is Back tournament finale Tuesday night, with the winner hoisting a trophy less than 24 hours before the league resumes its revised regular season in home markets.

It's a strange situation, for sure, but given how the sports world unraveled and changed in 2020, it might just be a fitting end to an event that set a Guinness World Record for being the largest single-location soccer tournament. The World Cup-style format included 51 matches over 45 days at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex at Disney World.

The tournament nearly got derailed early, with Nashville and Dallas having to withdraw because of numerous positive COVID-19 tests, but there have been no coronavirus setbacks since. Just entertaining soccer.

Orlando and Portland emerged as the best of the bunch, both relying on staunch defense to get to the championship match.

"Defenders, sometimes, they don't get the credit when you're winning games," said Orlando coach Oscar Pareja, whose team hasn't allowed more than one goal in any tournament game. "Normally we focus on the spectacular part of the game, and that's great. If the team keeps defending in that manner, I think we'll have a bigger chance to win."

Orlando is a surprise finalist in its sixth MLS season with its fourth head coach. Pareja replaced James O'Connor after last year and has taken the Lions to new heights. Players have clearly defined roles in a scheme that plays out of the back and keep finding good results in close games.

Nani has been the offensive key. The 33-year-old Portuguese midfielder scored the winner in Orlando's tournament opener and found the net twice in a 3-1 semifinal victory against Minnesota last week.

"You can't say enough good things about him right now," forward Chris Mueller said. "He's been tremendous for all of us."

Pareja pleaded with his players to treat the finale like any other match, knowing Portland has more experience. The Timbers won the MLS Cup in 2015 and were runners-up two years ago.

"That's all you really can do, right, at this point," Mueller said. "You don't want to think about the external pressure that playing in a final brings along. The harder we think about it and the harder we try to grasp it, the further it will get away from us.

"We need to focus on the process of doing what we do, of playing our game, of playing confidently and believing in each other because ultimately we know we have the quality and a good enough team to go out and win the game."

NFL star players looking for 2020 rebound

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Von Miller is determined to show 2019 was an oddity, not an omen.

Miller's performance last season was nothing to scoff at considering he had eight sacks and made his eighth Pro Bowl. But his five-year run as an All-Pro first- or second-team selection came to an end and the Denver Broncos' playoff drought persisted.

"I didn't play to the `Sack Master's' standards," Miller said. "My coaches felt like there was more for me to give. Most of all, I feel like I can give more and I can be more. I don't feel like I'm finished yet."

Neither does Tom Brady nor JuJu Smith-Schuster or Baker Mayfield, among the other big names looking for big bounce-backs in 2020.

Miller, the biggest NFL star to contract COVID-19, made the most of his home gym after recovering from the virus, hitting the weights hard and sharing videos and photos of his bulging muscles and extreme workouts on social media.

Brady

Beckham

"I didn't take any days off, I didn't go on any vacations and I didn't do anything but work out," Miller said.

It shows.

But it isn't just his buffed body that's turning heads at team headquarters. Coaches and teammates also see a more serious, cerebral Miller.

"I do sense that he's got a hunger to his game and to his attitude that I don't think he's had the last few years," coach Vic Fangio said.

"We do sprints and he's always out front," safety Justin Simmons said.

"He's been the most motivated I've seen," linebacker Bradley Chubb agreed. "He's going to have a monster year."

Miller said he realized he wasn't tapping his full leadership potential when he read "The Mamba Mentality" following Kobe Bryant's death and again when he watched the Michael Jordan documentary "The Last Dance."

"It's never too late to change," Miller said. "I might be 31 years old and in Year 10, but it's never too late to change. I've identified the leader that I was before wasn't getting it done. ... I have to change. I have to be like those guys."

Joining Miller on a comeback campaign in Denver this season is Chubb, Miller's pass-rushing partner who blew out a knee in September.

Chubb expects to be ready to go on opening night Sept. 14.

"I'm easing back into practice and getting my flow back to where it was," Chubb said. "I feel like I'll be good for Week 1, for sure."

TOM BRADY (& ROB GRONKOWSK I)

Like Miller, Brady put up decent numbers in 2019, but he sputtered down the stretch along with the rest of the Patriots, who followed their 8-0 start with a 4-5 finish, capped by their home loss to Tennessee in the playoffs. That was Brady's farewell to New England after two decades and six rings. Grownkowski came out of retirement to join Brady in Tampa, where the Bucs are sure they'll end their 12-year playoff drought.

JU-JU SMITH-SCHUSTER (& BEN ROETHLISBERGER)

Smith-Schuster paid the price after Roesthlisberger suffered a season-ending elbow injury in Week 2. After catching 111 passes for 1,426 yards and seven TDs in 2018, Smith had 42 catches for 552 yards and three TDs. Big Ben is back and so is James Washington (16.7 yards per catch). Pittsburgh also drafted Notre Dame's big receiver Chase Claypool. That should open things up for Schuster underneath to return to his 2018 form.

T.Y. HILTON (& PHILIP RIVERS)

Like Schuster, Hilton was adversely affected by injuries and spotty quarterback play last year when he set career lows with 45 receptions for 501 yards. Now he has Rivers throwing to him. Rivers was intercepted a whopping 20 times last year in L.A. to go with his 23 TD tosses. That followed an effective two-year stretch in which Rivers averaged 30 touchdown throws and 11 interceptions.

ODELL BECKHAM JR. (&BAKER MAYFIELD)

Mayfield followed a 27-TD rookie season with a step back under Freddie Kitchens, and Beckham was never himself as he played through a sports hernia. Beckham is healthy again following offseason surgery and seems a better fit in new coach Kevin Stefanski's play-action system, which also should help settle Mayfield, who had 21 interceptions in 2019 to go with 22 touchdown passes.

KHALIL MACK (& THE BEARS)

The league's highest-paid defender followed his smashing debut season in Chicago with a rather pedestrian 2019 that saw him tally 8+ sacks, his fewest since his rookie season in 2014. Although he had the same number of tackles—47—as he did in 2018, Mack's 14 QB hits ranked 46th in the NFL and his eight tackles for loss ranked 61st, numbers not befitting his $141 million contract.

25TH

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Camacho, Jeff Taylor, J.J. Atalig, CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan, and the late Jess Wabol.

Last year, TOC's centerpiece Championship Flight was won by Guam's Louis Sunga for his fifth victory in the competition. Camacho also triumphed in the 2019 edition of the event that drew more than 200 golfers after ruling the Senior Flight, while other top finishers were Henry Liang (A Flight), Joel Hocog (B Flight), Suryong Kim (C Flight), Nick Sablan (Super Seniors), Chang Hee Yoo (Ladies Low Gross), and Mio Kim (Ladies Low Net).

CAROL

From Page 20

training sessions with the Yellow Jackets.

"My coach [Rodney Harmon] picked me up from the airport. I did meet my teammates (roommates too) but not everyone. It felt good and happy to meet them in person and get to know each other more. My roommate helped me in picking my bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, and personal stuff which I am thankful for," said Lee, who received a full athletic scholarship from Georgia Tech after her impressive junior career that saw her play in Australian and US Open (juniors) and Fed Cup (both juniors and women's teams), win multiple titles in World ITF Junior Circuit, and dominate Pacific Oceania events.

GEORGIA TECH

Georgia Tech women's tennis head coach Rodney Harmon huddles with his players during a tournament last year. The CNMI's Carol Lee will join the Yellow Jackets' training sessions starting next week.

Lee added that her classes will begin on Aug. 17, while Georgia Tech tennis program's practice will official start next month.

"But the girl's squad will make a team schedule to practice starting next week," the 19-year-old athlete said.

The CNMI player added that although they won't see action in any tournament soon due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she and the rest of her teammates will be following regular training schedule.

"The Fall season is canceled, but the team will still have normal practice and school schedules. Some of the courses are online and some are being worked out to have face to face setting," Lee said.

If not for the pandemic, Lee would have debuted for Georgia Tech next month via the Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic and would have competed in a couple more invitational meets. She is hoping that things will get better soon or before the Spring season starts next year, as the Yellow Jackets compete in the elite Atlantic Coast Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (Division 1).

Meanwhile, the Georgia Tech rookie acknowledged the challenges she will be facing in her first year in the collegiate ranks, including canceled competitions and modified training sessions, due to the pandemic, but she remains optimistic and will use this season to improve her game and work with her teammates.

"Staying healthy and trying to avoid big crowds are my priorities. Next is to keep working hard in tennis and in school and building relationships with my team and others," Lee said.

NBA will have play-in series in West

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Sports

Angels snap Athletics' winning streak

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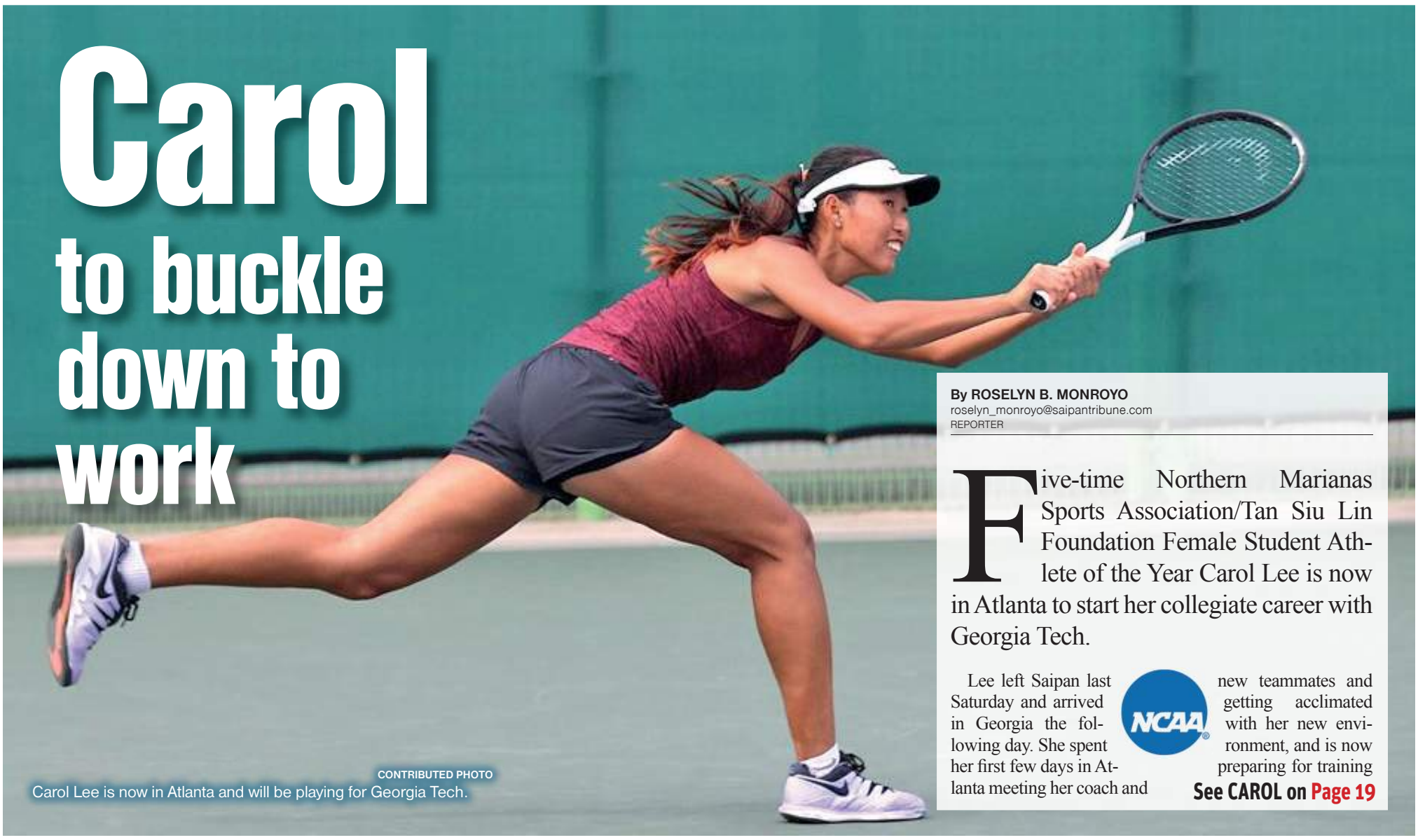
Carol to buckle down to work



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is now in Atlanta and will be playing for Georgia Tech.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five-time Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year Carol Lee is now in Atlanta to start her collegiate career with Georgia Tech.

Lee left Saipan last Saturday and arrived in Georgia the following day. She spent her first few days in Atlanta meeting her coach and new teammates and getting acclimated with her new environment, and is now preparing for training

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25th Tournament of Champions moved to 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this file photo, J.J. Atalig takes his time before going for a shot during the second and final round of last year's Governor's Tournament of Champions at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The silver anniversary of the Governor's Tournament of Champions has been pushed back to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 25th edition of the biggest golf tournament in the CNMI was supposed to take place last Aug. 8 and 9 on the west and east courses of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"The TOC board of directors and organizing committee has decided to postpone the 25th Governor's Tournament of Champions this year and moved it to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will set a new date later by year end 2020," TOC tournament director Ben Babauta said.

First held in 1996, TOC is held annually to raise funds for beautification projects in the CNMI, particularly the sites that are frequented by tourists. For more than two decades, the tournament, its sponsors, and the people who organized the competition, have supported projects that enhanced tourist spots here, including the Paseo de Marianas, Port to Pathway, and Garapan Street Revitalization Project–Coral Tree Avenue, the Gualo Rai/Navy Hill intersections, north and south medians, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, and Mt. Tapochao's landscape/railings among others.

On the sports side, the tournament has attracted players across Asia and became a testing ground for local golfers who went on to represent the CNMI in various regional and international tournaments. Among the notable Commonwealth players in the TOC are Tony Satur, Joe "Kamikaze"

See 25TH on Page 19

Guam's Louie Sunga places the ball on the greens. SAIPAN TRIBUNE